

DOUG
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BEAR REPORT

™ A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL

Vol. 12, No. 19 December 14, 1987

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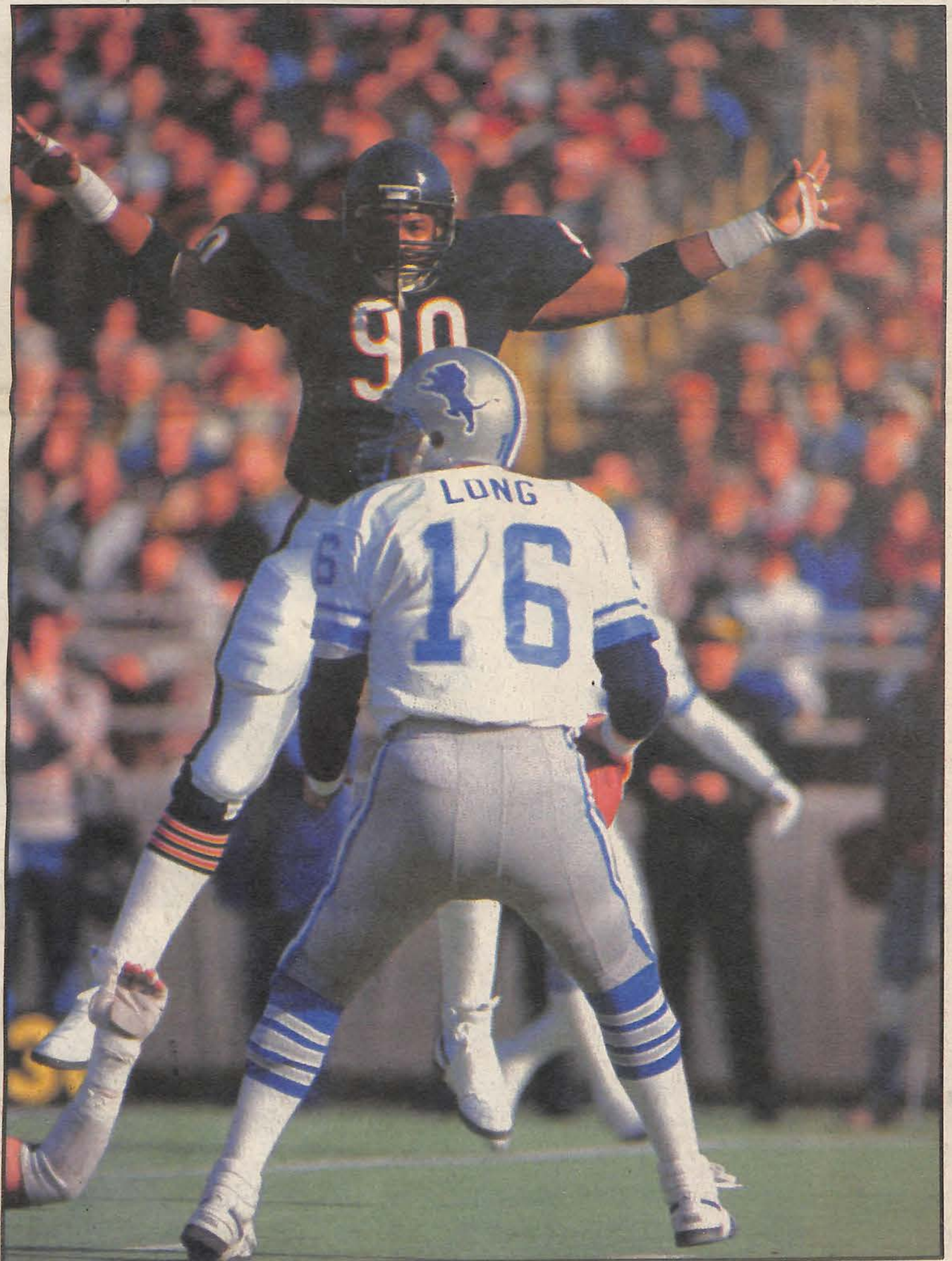
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A newspaper devoted exclusively to the Chicago Bears and the NFL

Vol. 12, No. 19 December 14, 1987

On the Cover...



Al Harris is playing sky-high at defensive end for the Bears, and last week he was named NFC defensive player of the week. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

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Bears look like old selves

No question about it, the Bears' win against Minnesota was a big one, especially coming on the road in a stadium like the Metrodome.

But what's even more impressive about the win is how the Bears did it. They looked

Now that the Bears have clinched the division title, the whole thing now is to get the home-field advantage for the playoffs. That's a big advantage that the Bears will need. And obviously, that makes Monday night's game against the 49ers another big one.

That will be another hornet's nest for the Bears, but they just came out of one alive in Minnesota. With all the crowd noise in the Metrodome, I just can't say enough about how well Jim McMahon and Mike Tomczak handled the situation.

Minnesota had the advantage on the line of scrimmage because the Bears couldn't always hear the snap count. But still, the Bears' offensive line played very well, and so did the defensive line. Steve McMichael

stood out on the defensive side for Chicago, and Paul Blair should be congratulated for the job he did against Chris Doleman while filling in for Jim Covert.

The Bear defense also started hitting hard Sunday night, the way they earned their reputation. They had some real pops, and Minnesota's running game suffered because of it.

What made the difference in the game was the Bears took advantage of mistakes, and the Vikings couldn't. If the Bears can keep doing that, they should come out all right in San Francisco and the rest of their games this year.

Now let's just hope the rest of the season lasts through January for the Bears.

DOUG BUFFONE



like the Bears of old. The intensity, spirit — the whole nine yards — was all there. And they kept winning in their division, which is the key to clinching the title.

The other thing to come out of the game is that the Bears finally beat a team with a winning record. That's as important for the players' minds as anything.

What Chicago did defensively on that goal-line stand was unbelievable. The intensity that the players, especially Mike Singletary, showed was great to see. And that stand wasn't easy against a team like the Vikings.

I think Minnesota head coach Jerry Burns made a mistake by not kicking the field goal on fourth down. It showed that Minnesota had confidence in their offense down there. But if you can't make it on three tries, what makes you think you'll make it on the fourth?

Doug's Picks

Bears by 3 over 49ers
Chicago has it together

Indianapolis by 6 over Bills
They're on a roll

Cleveland by 6 over Bengals
Browns need this after blowing two games

Redskins by 2 over Cowboys
They're hot after clinching title

Saints by 10 over Oilers
Jim Finks' team will knock them out

Philadelphia by 3 over Dolphins
Bad weather will hurt Miami

Vikings by 4 over Packers
Green Bay could play tough

Patriots by 2 over Jets
Take New England at home

Raiders by 7 over Chiefs
L.A. on the comeback trail

Giants by 3 over Cardinals
St. Louis getting no support at home

Steelers by 4 over Chargers
Who can believe Pittsburgh this year

Buccaneers by 4 over Lions
Tampa Bay still respectable

Rams by 13 over Falcons
L.A. good at home

Seahawks by 5 over Broncos
Just a hunch

DRAW PLAY By Dick Kulpa



Stability on the line brings success

Since the 1985 season, when the Bears stayed relatively healthy and won Super Bowl XX, injury is a subject they have been able to almost avoid. Almost.

They played in 1986 without Dennis McKinnon and Leslie Frazier, but Jim McMahon has been the primary reminder of the inevitable toll that injury takes.

McMahon is back now, relatively healthy. Injury remains. How teams deal with injury is the key to success in the NFL. With an injury rate of more than 100 percent to account for multiple injuries and repeat injuries, this is a business that cannot escape the attrition. Teams that cope best win.

Otis Wilson and Dan Hampton were the

DON PIERSON



first major victims this season. With luck, they will continue to rebound slowly but surely and be around for the playoffs.

It is a tribute to the Bears' depth that Ron Rivera and Al Harris are around to take up slack in the absence of Wilson and Hampton.

In the case of the offensive line, depth comes primarily from the players' own guts. Paul Blair, Kurt Becker, John Adickes, Mark Rodenhauser and John Wojciechowski provide good backup help. But starters Jim Covert, Mark Bortz, Jay Hilgenberg, Tom Thayer, and Keith Van Horne play hurt nearly every week of nearly every season.

It is understood they will be hurt and they will play.

This fact is not entirely unique among the Bears. It is a code among most offensive linemen everywhere. It's just that some teams have better continuity and tradition on their offensive lines than others.

The great teams enjoy unusual durability on the offensive line.

Rarely can a team sustain much offensive consistency while shuffling or patching its offensive line because of injury.

If you want one good reason why the Detroit Lions have wallowed around for years, check the attendance record of their offensive line.

If you want a good reason for the resurgence of the Minnesota Vikings, trace the arrival of left tackle Gary Zimmerman and decide for yourself whether it's merely coincidence.

Bears' line shows stability

So it should come as no surprise that before last week the Bears started the same five players on their offensive line for 34 of the 36 games since the five became starters.

That dates from the day Thayer replaced Becker, who had knee surgery. It was Sept. 29, 1985. On the same day, Covert happened to sit out because of a bad back. But since then and up until the Vikings' game, one miss by Bortz in 1986 is the only other absence.

"There is pride in how many consecutive games you can start because what else do linemen have to go on?" Hilgenberg said. "It's about the only statistic offensive linemen can have."

They work on a blue-collar ethic.

"If you can walk, you can play," Thayer said.

Head coach Mike Ditka had a saying himself: "If you can dance, you can play."

Van Horne notes an exception: "When a



Mark Bortz is just one of the Bears' regular offensive linemen who has played through injuries. Lately he's been bothered by a cracked rib. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

bone is sticking out."

Green Bay coach Forrest Gregg holds the Packer record for consecutive starts at 187. The right tackle recalls great stability in the offensive line from 1959 through 1967, when Vince Lombardi built the dynasty.

Gregg said Bob Skoronski, Norm Masters, Jerry Kramer, Fuzzy Thurston, Gale Gillingham, Jim Ringo, and Ken Bowman were practically the only offensive linemen to play for the Packers during nearly a decade of excellence.

"Offensive linemen particularly really get accustomed to working with each other," Gregg said. "You can almost guess how the guy playing beside you will handle certain situations. When there's so much blitz and stunt pickups, it's extremely important."

Offensive line coach Dick Stanfel, who blocked for Bobby Layne during the Detroit heyday, recalled that he never allowed a teammate even to give him a breather in practice.

"The guy might be better than me," Stanfel said.

Linemen forced to play through pain

Linemen believe they are so-called "unskilled" labor, so they believe they can be replaced more easily than the so-called "skilled" labor.

So they play through pain, which they cannot avoid.

"If a lineman is not hurting, he's not playing well. He should have contact on every play," Stanfel said.

Covert and Hilgenberg, the Bears' two Pro Bowl offensive linemen, both have been nursing ailments all season that are serious enough to require offseason surgery.

They have known it since the season began. They are just trying to get through this year without cutting it short. They will have the surgery "on their own time," as Thayer puts it.

If they can't make it until the end of the year, the Bears might not make it either.

When Jim Finks left the club as general manager in 1983 after building them into a contender starting in 1975, he talked of one of his biggest disappointments. He said when 1976 top draft choice Dennis Lick and 1977 top draft choice Ted Albrecht both suffered injuries that unexpectedly cut their careers short, it set the Bears' plans back for an undetermined time.

Lick and Albrecht were the starting offensive tackles when the Bears were first struggling to become a perennial playoff contender.

Since Covert and Van Horne arrived, Bear fans take the playoffs for granted. They shouldn't.

1987 Bears Schedule

REGULAR SEASON

Chicago 34, N.Y. Giants 19
Chicago 20, Tampa Bay 3
Sun., Sept. 27 at Detroit, noon
Chicago 35, Philadelphia 3
Chicago 27, Minnesota 7
New Orleans 19, Chicago 17
Chicago 27, Tampa Bay 26
Chicago 31, Kansas City 28
Chicago 26, Green Bay 24
Denver 31, Chicago 29
Chicago 30, Detroit 10
Chicago 23, Green Bay 10
Chicago 30, Minnesota 24
Mon., Dec. 14 ... at San Francisco, 8 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 20 SEATTLE, noon
Sun., Dec. 27 at L.A. Raiders, 3 p.m.
Home games in CAPS

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GAME WRAPUP

Dome spells doom for Vikings

Bears ride a roller coaster in division-clinching win

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

MINNEAPOLIS — The Rollerdom turned out to be a roller coaster ride for the Bears Sunday night.

But when they were finished climbing steep hills and falling to dangerous depths, with a few corkscrews in between, they managed to come out on top with a 30-24 win over the Vikings.

The Rollerdom became the Bears' ride to a fourth straight Central Division title and their most satisfying win of the year.

"It's unbelievable, it's unbelievable," Bears' head coach Mike Ditka said after the game while wearing a fur hat complete with Viking horns. "You got to give them all the credit in the world for not giving up and not quitting. Everything you ever talk about in life and everything you teach your kids and everything you ever say about success, they proved tonight. They got the guts to do it. I don't know how it happened."

It happened with a few great plays by the defense and a couple of big gainers by the offense.

With the Vikings up 24-23 with 6:04 left to play, Minnesota had a chance to put the game away when Mike Tomczak, in for the injured Jim McMahon, dropped back to pass from his own 12 and was hit by Chris Doleman. Doleman forced a fumble, and Scott Studwell recovered for Minnesota at the one. It marked the fourth straight game Doleman has forced a fumble.

Bears shut down run

The Vikings then ran three running plays up the middle without getting in the end zone. Steve McMichael made the stop on the first play on Rick Fenney. Then Mike Single-

tary stopped Fenney on second and goal.

After that hit, linebacker Wilber Marshall said, "Everyone started concentrating more. Mike made a great hit and said there's no way they're getting in there. And all of a sudden you hear everyone else saying, 'There's no way, there's no way.' And their line got up there and they looked at us and said, 'We aren't going to make this.' You could just see it in their eyes."

On third down Viking quarterback Wade Wilson tried to get in on a quarterback sneak, but he was stuffed for no gain, too.

Then on fourth down, the Bear defense finished the goal-line stand when Todd Bell hit Darrin Nelson behind the line of scrimmage for a three-yard loss.

"When opportunity comes, you have to rise to the occasion," Bell said. "When the time came to make that play, I thank God I was able to make it. It's a never say die defense, just never say die."

"I really hoped that we would hold them and they would kick the three," Ditka said. "And then we would have a chance to score. I really thought they would go play-action pass (on fourth down). We put a goal-line bash on. We blew the people from outside, and Darrin had no chance to get to the outside. It was just the right call on the right play."

"The goal-line stand was incredible. I don't know how you explain those things."

Bears deserved the win

For Vikings' head coach Jerry Burns, the goal-line stand proved the Bears deserved to win the game. "Anytime you have first down on the one-yard line and four shots, you better get it done. We didn't, and the Bears deserved to win."

Added Nelson, "It was disheartening, sure. We had the game won, but we couldn't score from the one-yard line. If we had scored that touchdown, the game would have been over."

When the Bears took over, Tomczak moved them out to the 36 before Chicago punted with less than two minutes left.

Again the defense had to stop Minnesota, and it did with one yard to spare. Minnesota ran three running plays that each gained three yards and punted on fourth down.

Chicago took over at its own 39 with 1:25 left. Neal Anderson broke a trap play for 20 yards, and Tomczak completed a pass to

Dennis Gentry for three yards to the Viking 38. Then on third and seven Tomczak found Gentry again and completed a short pass to him.

But Gentry found an open field in front of him and ran down the right sideline all the way for the game-winning touchdown with 33 seconds left and a 30-24 Bear lead.

"Mike Tomczak did a great job of reading the defense," Gentry said. "I was surprised. I thought somebody would maybe be over in the corner. But Willie (Gault) cleared it out and opened it up for myself."

Added Ditka, "I'm not a prophet, but I said all week that Dennis Gentry was going to be the MVP. And he certainly made the play when it counted."

Tomczak ready to fill in

Tomczak said he was ready for the situation he was thrust into. "I had a funny feeling about this week," he said. "I knew I was going to have a big part in this game. I was dreaming about it."

The first half was rough on both starting quarterbacks. McMahon hurt his hamstring in the half and had to leave the game later in the second half after aggravating it.

Tommy Kramer, starting for the Vikings,

reinjured his shoulder near the end of the half. Wade Wilson then came on to finish the Vikings' only scoring drive of the half. And when he sizzled to start the second half, Kramer was left on the sidelines for the rest of the game.

After gaining a 13-7 lead at halftime, the Bears opened up the second half fast, going 85 yards in four plays to score on a 16-yard pass from McMahon to Gault for a 20-7 Bear lead. Gault caught the pass at the three and spun away from Carl Lee to reach the end zone.

The Bears moved into scoring position quickly when Lee was called for a 46-yard pass interference penalty when he tackled Gault on a long pass before the ball got there.

But the Vikings came right back to score on their first two possessions of the second half. Minnesota answered with their first score four plays later when Wilson hit Anthony Carter on a quick slant pattern that went 60 yards for a touchdown. Carter outran the entire Bear secondary and stiff-armed Mike Richardson to make it all the

Continued Page 14



Dennis Gentry is surrounded by his teammates after he scampered 38 yards with a pass from Mike Tomczak for the winning touchdown over the Vikings Sunday night.

(Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

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Bears-Vikings game statistics

SCORING SUMMARY

Chicago Bears	3	10	7	10	—	30
Minnesota Vikings	0	7	14	3	—	24
Bears, 1, 14:32, Butler 23-yard FG, 3-0.						
Bears, 2, 7:20, Gault 42-yard pass from McMahon (Butler kick), 10-0.						
Bears, 2, 13:19, Butler 26-yard FG, 13-0.						
Vikings, 2, 14:54, Rice 1-yard pass from Wilson (C. Nelson kick), 13-7.						
Bears, 3, 1:52, Gault 16-yard pass from McMahon (Butler kick), 20-7.						
Vikings, 3, 4:12, Carter 60-yard pass from Wilson (C. Nelson kick), 20-14.						
Vikings, 3, 11:03, Carter, 35-yard pass from Wilson (C. Nelson kick), 20-21.						
Vikings, 4, 1:13, C. Nelson 27-yard FG, 20-24.						
Bears, 4, 5:09, Butler 30-yard FG, 23-24.						
Bears, 4, 14:20, Gentry 38-yard pass from Tomczak (Butler kick), 30-24.						
Attendance: 62,331; tickets distributed: 63,806; unused: 1,475; time: 3:04						
Weather: 31 outside; temperature: 62 inside; wind and direction: dome						

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Bears	Vikings
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	26	18
By Rushing	8	4
By Passing	13	13
By Penalty	5	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	12-6	17-9
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0	0-0
TOTAL NET YARDS	423	356
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times passing)	69	71
Av. Gain per Off. Play	6.1	5.0
NET YARDS RUSHING	159	75
Total Rushing Plays	32	27
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	5.0	2.8
NET YARDS PASSING	264	281
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	3-18	5-21
Gross Yds. Passing	282	302
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	34-17-1	39-22-1
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	7.1	6.4
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	4-40	6-40
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	109	200
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	5-31	3-40
No. and Yds. KO Returns	5-78	7-148
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	1-0	1-12
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	6-45	7-91
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	2-2	2-0
TOUCHDOWNS	3	3
Rushing	0	0
Passing	3	3
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	3-3	3-3
FG MADE — ATT.	3-3	1-2
TIME OF POSSESSION	32:51	27:09

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Chicago Bears

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING					
Anderson, N.	13	75	5.8	14	0
McMahon	5	32	6.4	9	0
Payton	10	39	3.9	14	0
Sanders	4	13	3.3	7	0

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Yds.	TD	LG	Had
PASSING							Int.
McMahon	22	11	186	1/7	2	42	1
Tomczak	12	6	96	2/11	1	38	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
PASS RECEIVING				
Gentry	4	65	38	1
McKinnon	5	87	33	0
Payton	1	10	10	0
Morris	2	21	19	0
Gault	3	70	42	2
Moorehead	1	23	23	0
Anderson	1	6	6	0

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
INTERCEPTIONS				
Duerson	1	0	0	0

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
PUNTING						
Wagner	4	160	40.0	0	0	57

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
PUNT RETURNS					
McKinnon	4	0	21	9	0
Duerson	1	0	10	10	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Suhey	1	5	5	0
Sanders	3	44	44	0
Gentry	1	29	29	0

FUMBLES

	Fum.	Own	Yds.	TD
McMahon	1	0	-6	0
Tomczak	1	0	-2	0

Minnesota Vikings

	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING					
Nelson, D.	14	25	1.8	6	0
Anderson, A.	5	15	3.0	3	0
Fenney	3	3	1.0	3	0
Kramer	1	15	15	15	0
Gustafson	1	-2	-2	-2	0
Rice	1	2	2	2	0
Wilson	2	17	8.5	17	0

	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	Yds.	TD	LG	Had
PASSING							Int.

Kramer	20	10	91	3/14	0	31	1
Wilson	19	12	211	2/7	3	60	0

PASS RECEIVING

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Jordan	4	39	15	0
Lewis	2	39	31	0
Gustafson	3	48	23	0
Nelson, D.	7	28	8	0
Fenney	1	8	8	0
Rice	1	1	1	1
Carter	3	106	60	2
Jones	1	33	33	0

INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Lee	1	12	12	0

PUNTING

	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Coleman	6	239	40.0	0	1	48

PUNT RETURNS

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Carter	3	0	40	22	0

Continued Page 14

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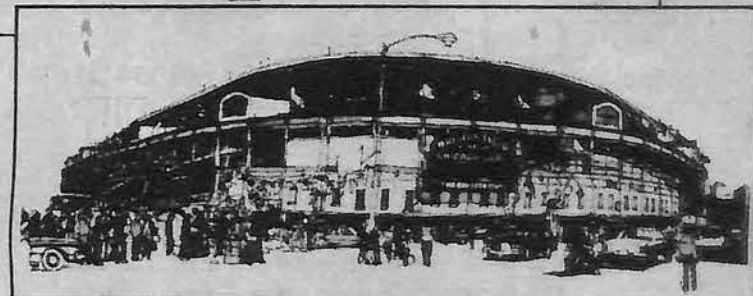
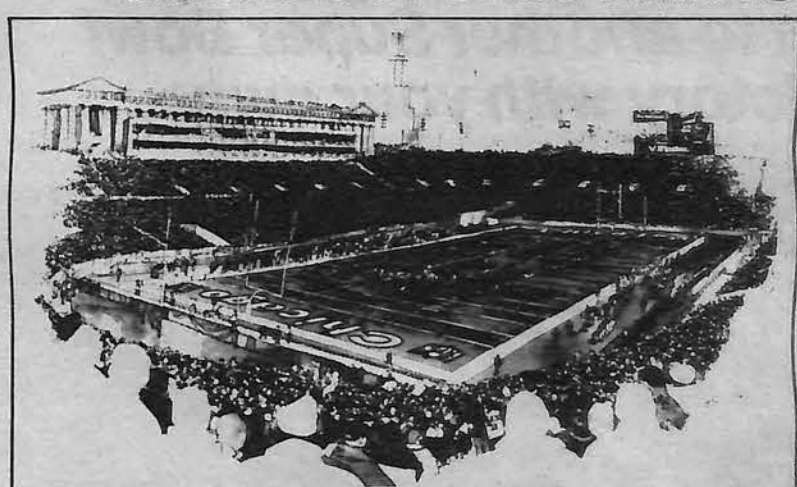
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It wasn't pretty, but Blair gets job done

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

MINNEAPOLIS — It's tough enough playing the role of a backup without making your first NFL start lining up against one of the best players in the league.

But that's just the situation second-year offensive tackle Paul Blair faced Sunday night. As Jim Covert's understudy, Blair was put into the starting lineup against the Vikings after a sprained ankle suffered by Covert in the Green Bay game landed him on the inactive list.

Blair was matched up against Vikings' defensive end Chris Doleman, who's listed among the leaders in the NFL with 10 sacks this season. What made Blair's performance even more important Sunday night was that Doleman would be coming after quarterback Jim McMahon from McMahon's blind side.

But Blair did his job and didn't allow Doleman to get a single sack when he was assigned to him.

Blair said the crowd noise put him at even more of a disadvantage in the third and fourth quarters as he went against Doleman.

"A lot of times they caught us sitting on our heels," Blair said about the Viking defensive line. "We were watching the ball waiting for the snap count and they had their eyes glued on us. So they were beating us off the snap."

Ditka knew pressure was on Blair

Going into the game, Ditka realized the fire Blair was being put into. "He's got a tough job ahead of him with Chris Doleman. Playing a kid who hasn't played a lot, it will be a tough matchup. There's no question about it," Ditka said.

But Ditka said the Bears' game plan wouldn't be drastically altered just because Blair is playing in place of Covert. "We're not going to change everything just to help out," Ditka said.

Blair said the Bears had the tight end helping out in the first quarter, but not after that. "After the initial couple of series there was no help," he said.

Blair said the key to beating Doleman was getting at him quickly. "You just have to get on him in a hurry," he said. "He's a wide rusher. You can't let him get the edge on you and you have to get your hands on him."

"I got run over a couple of times. But I beat him most of the night."

Doleman has emerged as one of the league's top pass rushers in his first season at the position. He was moved there from linebacker at the start of the year. "We feel he's ideally suited to play defensive end," Minnesota coach Jerry Burns said. "He's got the size, he's got the speed, he's got the strength. We felt we could utilize his abilities better as a defensive end."

The pressure was really on Blair and the offensive line in the second half when the Bears fell behind and were forced to pass a lot with a lot of background noise.

Crowd noise bothers line

"The third and fourth quarters were real bad," Blair said. "In the second half they got some momentum back and jumped up ahead of us and the crowd got going. That was the worst part of it right there."

But Blair is happy with the way things turned out.

"Doleman's a great player and I'm satisfied with the way I played," he said. "I played a good game. It wasn't always pretty, but I

got the job done. I won a lot more than I lost."

Blair also earned praise from Ditka about his play. "Paul Blair just sucked it up and played as hard as he could," Ditka said. "He got beat some in there, but he played his

heart out. When we needed pass protection at the end of the game, they gave it to us."

And when the Bears needed a solid performance from Covert's replacement, they got it from Blair.



Paul Blair (top) kept the Vikings' Chris Doleman in check for most of the game in Sunday's 30-24 win over the Vikings. Doleman didn't get a sack when Blair was assigned to him. (Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

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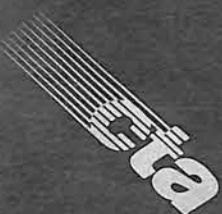
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Rolling in the Rollerdom



Besides hurting his hamstring in Sunday night's game, Jim McMahon also banged up his arm and was forced to leave the game during the Bears' first series of the fourth quarter.

(Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)



Al Harri (90) gets way up in the air, but he can't block this field-goal attempt by Minnesota's Chuck Nelson. But it wasn't enough as the Bears went on to beat the Vikings, 30-24.

(Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)



The Vikings' gymnasts and cheerleaders got into the spirit of the Rollerdom at Sunday night's game. Mike Ditka opted not to don his roller skates before the game.

(Bear Report photo by Glenn Abrams)

BEAR NOTEBOOK

'Player of the week' news stuns Harris

Against the Green Bay Packers last week, **Al Harris** was credited with five tackles, a sack, one pass deflection that saved a touchdown and two blocked field goals. All of which earned him NFC defensive player of the week honors.

Not bad for a guy who's "just filling in" for the injured **Dan Hampton**.

"I'm stunned," Harris said when informed of the honor.

A lot of fans may be surprised, too, that Harris has performed so well. But they shouldn't be. Harris was a first-round draft pick in 1979 but was left behind in the Bears' 1985 Super Bowl season while sitting out in a contract dispute.

When he came back last year, he didn't have a starting job. At the start of this season, he was moved from linebacker to defensive end and got his first extended playing time when Hampton went down with a knee injury against Green Bay Nov. 8.

"I think so much happens that you don't expect. I just try to take it one day at a time," Harris said.

It took Harris a couple of games to get his game instincts back. In his first game filling in for Hampton against Denver, Harris had just one tackle and one deflected pass.

"I think in the Denver game I was tentative," he said. "It was the first time I played defensive end in a while and I think I was thinking too much instead of reacting. I think it has just been gradual over the last few games."

With **Ron Rivera** playing for **Otis Wilson** on the same side as Harris, teams have tested the Bear defense over there. And that's given Harris and Rivera the opportunity to make some big plays.

"I think Green Bay tried to test Ron and me on that side. So that got me in the action a little more," Harris said. And he expected the Vikings to do the same thing Sunday night. "I think they'll try to test us again," Harris said. "But I don't think the game plan's going to be focused solely on Ron and me."

If Harris keeps performing the way he did against Green Bay, his coaches might have some tough decisions to make about how to keep him in the lineup once Hampton returns. "I'll let the coaches make the decision as far as that's concerned," Harris said. "I just want to do anything I can do to help us get to the Super Bowl."

And that includes blocking kicks on special teams. Harris had five blocked kicks this year going into the Minnesota game. He's blocked three field goals against Green Bay and an extra point against both Tampa Bay and the New York Giants.

"It's fun," Harris said. "I look to block the kick. This is really my first year on the inside. I kind of wanted to get in there before."

But now that he is there, he's making the most of that opportunity, also.

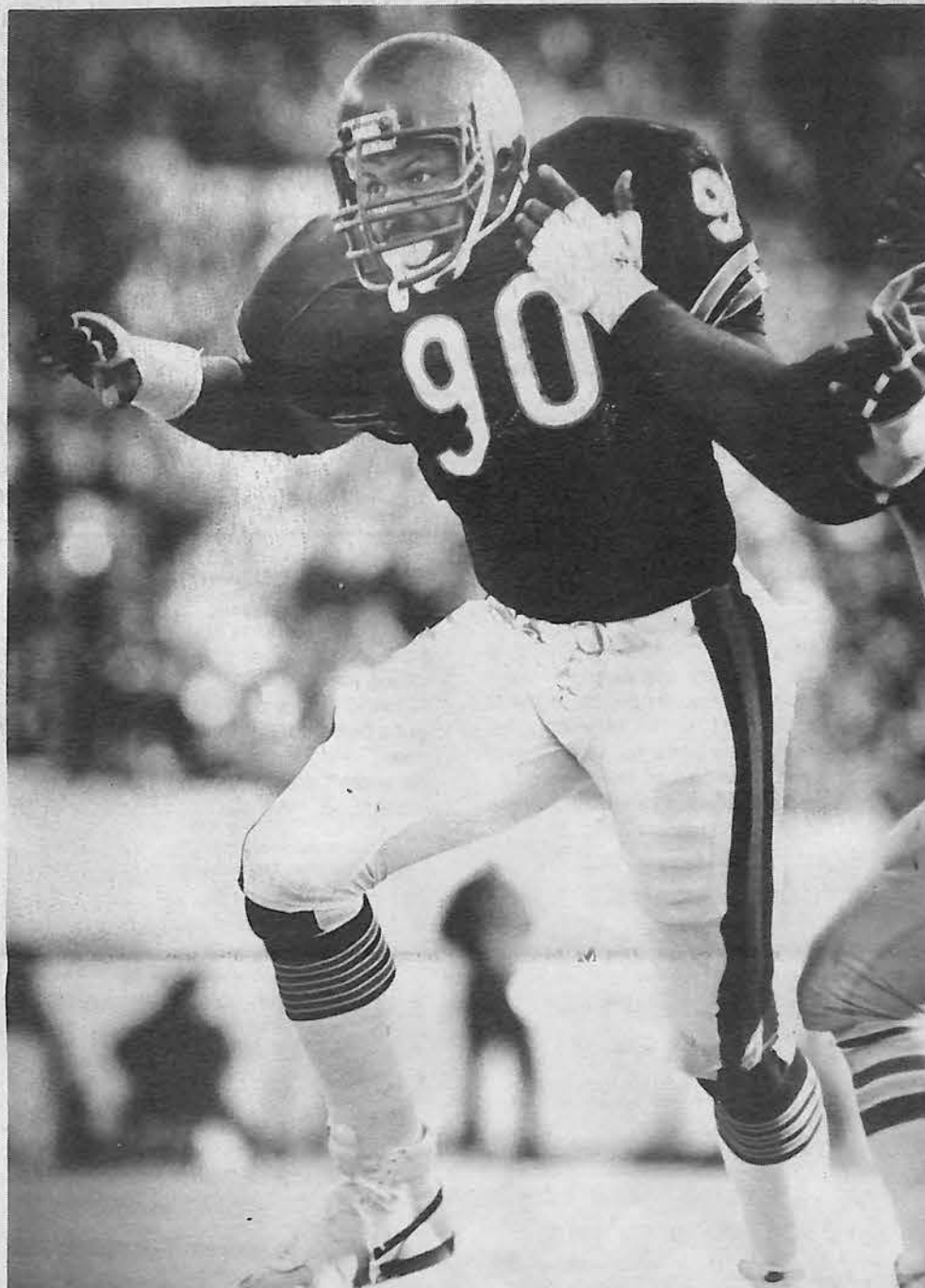
The only problem with being named the player of the week is that Harris didn't have that incentive listed in his contract for more money. "I had two years to think about it. I should have," Harris said.

But there's another source from which Harris could collect a bonus for the honor. "I've got to talk to McKinnon," he said.

After wide receiver **Dennis McKinnon** criticized the defense and special teams blocking last week, he offered \$200 to the special teams player of the game against the Packers. Harris won the money.

•**HEAD COACH MIKE DITKA** started a joke last Monday that kept rolling into something more and more elaborate as the week went on.

Last Monday Ditka called the Hubert Humphrey Metrodome, where the Bears played the Vikings Sunday night, a "Rollerdome."



Al Harris said he was "stunned" to learn he was named NFC defensive player of the week last week for his play against Green Bay. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

He said domed stadiums aren't good for any sports except roller skating.

Then on Wednesday, Ditka said the Viking cheerleaders should wear skates at the game but that Minnesota general manager **Mike Lynn** probably wouldn't pay for them.

On Thursday, Ditka received a pair of roller skates from Lynn and tried them out in the hallways of Halas Hall. That evening, the Viking cheerleaders got their skates from Lynn at a press conference.

"Mike Lynn sprung for them. That might refute everything I've heard about him from his players," Ditka said.

Ditka wouldn't say for sure before Sunday's game whether he would wear the skates at the game. "I haven't made up my mind," he said, but added, "That's the only thing the dome's good for. Why not do it?"

The Vikings also were set to hand out 63,000 white "Touchdown Towels" at the game, their version of the Steelers' "Terrible Towel."

"We'll have to put a bounty on them and see how many we can collect," Ditka said.

•**MINNESOTA FANS PROVED** how loud they could be during the World Series earlier this fall, and that was a concern of the Bears going into the game.

"If we can go out and quiet the crowd we won't have any problems," said wide

receiver **Ron Morris**. "We're going to have to get out of the huddle really fast, so that way if Jim (McMahon) needs to audible he'll have time to walk over to my side, then to Willie (Gault). If Jim sees something differ-

ent, he will have time to get it out to us."

Minnesota head coach **Jerry Burns** wouldn't overestimate the value of the crowd. "I don't think the outcome of the game is going to be determined by crowd noise," he said. "It's gonna be determined by the players on the field and their execution of whatever responsibilities they have."

"Sometimes it can cause a break in rhythm, but I don't think crowd noise ever is going to be ultimately responsible for winning the game."

•**TACKLE JIM COVERT WAS HELD** out of the starting lineup of Sunday's game because of a badly sprained ankle he suffered against Green Bay. Second-year player **Paul Blair** filled in for Covert. Ditka said it was possible Covert might enter the game as a substitute.

Linebacker **Jim Morrissey** was placed on the inactive list for the game because of a hamstring pull. And rookie linebacker **Paul Migliazzo** also was put on the inactive list, being replaced by **Jay Norvell**.

Defensive back **Egypt Allen** was activated for the game.

•**THE "GRABOWSKI SHUFFLE,"** a music video featuring Ditka singing and dancing with five other fans, has gone platinum, the video's producer announced last week.

REM Home Video said the Record Industry Association of America gave the honor to the 30-minute tape, meaning that 50,000 copies had been shipped to stores.

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CENTRAL ISSUES

Lynn regrets how Vikings handled strike

By John Delcos



Minnesota Vikings

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

General Manager **Mike Lynn** regrets how the Vikings handled the strike. They were the last club to field a replacement team and settled on 37-year old **Tony Adams**, who hadn't played in six years, as their quarterback.

Lynn gambled on a short strike. "I felt before the strike that even if the players were out a week or two, we made the right decision," Lynn said. "I said if it went beyond three weeks, it could be a drastic decision."

NOTES: Going into the Chicago game, K **Chuck Nelson** missed six of his last 11 field goal attempts, including three at Dallas.

INJURIES: DT **Keith Millard** (leg), DT **Tim Newton** (thigh), RB **D.J. Dozier** (ankle), LB **David Howard** (ankle), QB **Tommy Kramer** (right arm), DT **Henry Thomas** (toe) and S **John Harris** (ribs).

THIS WEEK: Green Bay at Milwaukee. Vikings lead, 26-25-1. Green Bay has won 11 of the last 15, including a 21-16 decision in the first game at Minnesota.

THE STRETCH: At Detroit, Washington.
NFL RANKINGS: Offense — 18th (16th rush, 20th pass). Defense — 7th (9th rush, 11th pass).



Green Bay Packers

GREEN BAY PACKERS

For a mediocre kicker, **Al Del Greco** is hard to forget.

Four days after Coach **Forrest Gregg** waived Del Greco in favor of **Max Zendejas**, the latter missed three field goal attempts in a loss to Chicago.

"That's Forrest Gregg's fault. Zendejas doesn't have the experience," Chicago K **Kevin Butler** said. "If Del Greco had been here, it might've been a different game."

Meanwhile, Del Greco failed a tryout with New England. But there was talk late last week he would be re-signed.

NOTES: QB **Randy Wright** passed the 5,000-yard milestone against Chicago. Why don't they plan it that way? The only reason **Walter Stanley** was open to make a 66-yard touchdown reception against Chicago was because he ran the wrong pattern. "Walter blew his pattern," said Wright. "I saw him and knew he had his man beat."

INJURIES: RB **Brent Fullwood** (ankle),

RB **Ken Davis** (leg), LB **Brian Noble** (leg), LB **Scott Stephen** (ankle) and WR **Keith Paskett** (leg).

THIS WEEK: Minnesota at Milwaukee. Vikings lead, 26-25-1. Green Bay has won 11 of the last 15, including a 21-16 decision at Minnesota.

THE STRETCH: At New York Giants, at New Orleans.

NFL RANKINGS: Offense — 20th (19th rush, 21st pass). Defense — 15th (18th rush, 14th pass).



Tampa Bay Buccaneers

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Coach **Ray Perkins** is steaming. The boiling point came after a 35-3 loss to the Los Angeles Rams.

"I found out for the first time what it's like to put a bunch of boys in to oppose a bunch of men," Perkins said. Ouch!

He wasn't done. "It was embarrassing," he continued. "We don't have good enough

people to win. We're going to go out and find some. We're going to start next week to prepare for next year. A lot of these guys won't be here."

Three days later, Perkins did a turn-around. "We have too many nice guys," he said. "We've got a great bunch of guys. But when they put their uniforms on, they're just too nice."

NOTES: Perkins waited until gametime to announce the starting quarterback against New Orleans. **Steve DeBerg**, whom Perkins said, "was the only guy who played with guts," suffered pulled back muscles in the Ram game and was relieved by **Vinny Testaverde**. . . . The Rams have won seven of nine games with the Bucs.

INJURIES: OT **Marvin Powell** (knee), DE **Ron Holmes** (shoulder), C **Randy Grimes** (knee), WR **Phil Freeman** (shoulder) and DE **John Cannon** (ribs).

THIS WEEK: Home to Detroit. Lions lead, 10-9. The teams have split three straight seasons. Tampa Bay won the first meeting, 31-17, at Detroit.

THE STRETCH: St. Louis, at Indianapolis.

NFL RANKINGS: Offense — 26th (27th rush, 17th pass). Defense — 11th (15th rush, 10th pass).

QUOTEBOOK

Green Bay Coach Forrest Gregg on his kick return unit:

"We look like the Keystone Cops back there handling the football."

FREE AGENTS

The following players will become free agents when their contracts expire Feb. 1:

CHICAGO — DBs **Mike Richardson**, **Gary Fencik** and **Maurice Douglass**; OL **Jay Hilgenberg**, **Keith Van Horne** and **Larry Rubens**; LBs **Wilbur Marshall**, **Ron Rivera** and **James Morrissey**; WRs **Willie Gault**, **Dennis McKinnon** and **Keith Ortego**; RBs **Walter Payton** and **Calvin Thomas**; DL **Steve McMichael**; TEs **Cap Boso**, **Tim Wrightman** and **Emery Moorehead**; QB **Mike Tomczak**; K **Kevin Butler**.

DETROIT — DEs **Keith Ferguson**, **William Gay**, **Steven Baack** and **Leon Evans**; QB **Joe Ferguson**; WRs **Mark Nichols** and **Carl Bland**; OL **Richard Strenger**, **Stephen Mott**, **Keith Glover** and **Bob Cryder**; DBs **Ivory Sully**, **William Graham** and **James Griffin**; TEs **Rob Rubick** and **Mark Lewis**; LB **Shelton Robinson**; RB **Edmund Williams**; P **James Arnold**.

GREEN BAY — DL **Ezra Johnson**, **Brent Moore**, **Alphonso Carreker**, **Jerry Boyarsky**, **Robert L. Brown** and **Ross Browner**; OL **Rich Moran**, **Thomas Neville**, **Alan Veingrad**, **Mark Cannon**, **Ron Hallstrom** and **Bill Cherry**; RBs **Jessie Clark** and **Eddie Lee Ivey**; WRs **Philip Epps** and **Walter Stanley**; DBs **Mark Lee**, **George Greene** and **David Greenwood**; LBs **Mike Weddington**, **Brian Noble** and **Bobby Leopold**; QB **Randy Wright**.

MINNESOTA — LBs **Chris Martin**, **Jesse Soloman**, **Sam Anno** and **Walker Ashley**; OL **Kirk Lowdermilk**, **Dennis Swilley**, **Terry Tausch**, **Gary Zimmerman** and **Mike Durette**; DBs **Carl Lee**, **Neal Guggemos** and **Wymon Henderson**; TE **Carl Hilton**; DL **Doug Martin**, **Stafford Mays** and **Gerald Robinson**.

TAMPA BAY — QB **Steve DeBerg**; RBs **James Wilder**, **Nathan Wonsley**, **Jeff Smith**, **Quentin Walker**, **Cliff Austin** and **Bobby Howard**; LBs **Scott Brantley**, **Ervin Randle** and **Jeffrey Davis**; DL **Kevin Kellin**, **Bobby Kemp** and **John Cannon**; WRs **Herkie Walls**, **Soloman Miller** and **Phil Freeman**; DBs **Vito McKeever** and **Bobby Futrell**; P **Frank Garcia**; OL **Marvin Powell**, **George Yarno**, **J.D. Maarleveld**, **Rick Mallory**, **Conrad Goode**, **Randy Grimes** and **Ron Heller**; TE **Calvin Magee**.



Lions' wide receiver Jeff Chadwick will end the year on the injured reserve list for the third year in a row. Chadwick broke a bone in his hand in the Chiefs' game on Thanksgiving Day.



Detroit Lions

DETROIT LIONS

Surprise. Surprise. Surprise.

Doing his best **Gomer Pyle** imitation, owner **William Clay Ford** announced often-criticized **Darryl Rogers** will return to coach next season.

The announcement came on the heels of a three-game losing streak which dropped the Lions' record to 2-9.

"I really don't want to go into too much detail," Ford said. "He and I obviously have to get together when the season is over. The main thing is he will be back."

NOTES: For the third straight year, WR **Jeff Chadwick** will end the season on Injured Reserve. He broke a bone in his right hand in the Thanksgiving Day loss to Kansas City. He has 30 receptions for 416 yards (13.9) and no touchdowns. . . . Rookie DE **Reggie Rogers** practiced for the first time since Nov. 6 and was expected to play against the Rams. He was on the inactive list with emotional problems.

INJURIES: RBs **James Jones** (neck) and **Garry James** (shoulder).

THIS WEEK: At Tampa Bay. Lions lead, 10-9. The teams have split three straight seasons. Tampa Bay won the first meeting, 31-17, at Detroit.

THE STRETCH: Minnesota, at Atlanta.

NFL RANKINGS: Offense — 25th (28th rush, 13th pass). Defense — 25th (24th rush, 22nd pass).

Surgery moves ahead with McMahon

Jim McMahon's start at Minnesota was his sixth in a row. That equalled his longest regular-season streak since 1983, before the kidney injury, before the back and neck and leg injuries, before the shoulder injuries, before the question came up of whether he could ever be a full-time quarterback in the NFL. He hopes the question will be put to rest before he is.

The shoulder surgery last December has become a faint memory. McMahon has landed hard on it. He has strained it with throws

KEVIN LAMB



from awkward positions. He has been sacked eight times in a game. The shoulder remains intact. He seems even to be throwing better, which is quite believable since the injury was something that grew progressively worse throughout his NFL career.

"You can't tell he just had surgery from the way he's throwing," wide receiver Willie Gault said.

That's more remarkable than most people knew. They knew his doctor, preeminent shoulder surgeon Frank Jobe, had said it would be a year before he could reasonably expect to play and two years before the surgery would heal completely. McMahon came back faster than that. He heals as easily as he gets injured.

But most people did not know Jobe had told him he couldn't guarantee a full recovery at all. They did not know Jobe used a surgical procedure on McMahon a year ago Saturday that he said he had done "maybe 10 times" before.

When McMahon came back, he took sports medicine a step forward with him. When he passed the test of recovery, it also was a test for the technique that could take the five-alarm panic out of the words "torn rotator cuff" for athletes who throw. He turned an experiment into an example.

It wasn't that Jobe wanted to experiment with the Bears' high-profile quarterback. "The point was, we didn't have anything better," he said.

Doctors had learned barely a year earlier why throwing athletes have had mixed results with rotator cuff surgery. It turned out most of those athletes had slight shoulder dislocations, too. The dislocations were causing the rotator cuff damage, Jobe said.

Repairing the rotator cuff without addressing the dislocation was like replacing the floorboards without killing the termites. The cause of the problem remained, so the problem often returned.

Now that they knew what to do, doctors had to figure out how to do it. "Most surgical procedures for the shoulder up until then restricted the range of motion to keep it from going out of the socket, but didn't allow you to throw," Jobe said.

That wouldn't do for athletes. Surgeons needed a way to keep a shoulder from slipping out of joint without limiting the arm's range of motion.

McMahon has good timing

"It just happened that Jim came along when we were thinking about this problem," Jobe said. "He fit into that category very well."

Jobe had just developed a solution at Cerritos Hospital in suburban Los Angeles. He

called it capsulo-labral reconstruction. He would stabilize the shoulder by reconstructing the capsule, at the front of the joint, and the labrum, a flat rim of cartilage. Together, Jobe called them "sort of the sleeve of the shoulder."

"It looks like it may work, Jobe said. "It certainly has with Jim."

But after repairing McMahon's cuff and rebuilding his sleeve, Jobe gave no guarantees. He only hoped the shoulder would have the combination of stability and mobility McMahon needed. Like Bear fans, he had an anxious wait.

"Oh, it certainly was," Jobe said. Finally, McMahon played the first two Sundays after the strike. He sparked two comeback wins. Jobe saw him briefly on TV highlights. "It felt really great," he said. "Jim looks pretty good, doesn't he?"

"I hear Dr. Jobe's been asked to give lectures on the new procedure," said Steve Zucker, McMahon's agent. "Maybe they'll call it the McMahon Procedure."

It won't be the Jobe Procedure. "I wouldn't want you to get too dramatic," Jobe said. "Don't make it look like we just discovered green cheese or something. But I think it's a step forward, one step of many."

It began about two years ago, Jobe said, when use of the arthroscope spread from knees to shoulders. The arthroscope displays joints through a camera no wider than a pencil, and only that view showed the frequency of dislocated shoulders in rotator-cuff patients who threw overhanded.

Until then, Jobe said, doctors knew how to diagnose torn rotator cuffs but couldn't always identify anterior subluxation, the term for a shoulder that pops slightly out of the front of its socket. The subluxation alone didn't keep an athlete from throwing. It didn't even cause obvious pain, which can radiate confusingly in the shoulder-neck area. But it damaged rotator cuffs.

"The ball in the socket slides forward a little bit when they bring the arm up to throw," Jobe said. "When it does, then the rotator cuff gets pinched against the top of the shoulder."

So when surgeons repaired rotator cuffs without addressing the subluxation, Jobe said, it was with "inconsistent results." The breakthrough was that they found out it wasn't because of a flaw in rotator-cuff repairs. It was because a repaired rotator cuff would erode again from the same pinching against the top of the shoulder.

Actually, Jobe said, the socket is more a slightly curved plate than a true socket. He compared the shoulder with a seal balancing a stick on its nose. "What he does is keep positioning his nose so the stick is stable," he said. "Well, the shoulder does the same thing. The scapula, or the wing bone, keeps moving so it's always at the position of maximum stability, whatever you're doing with your arm and your hand."

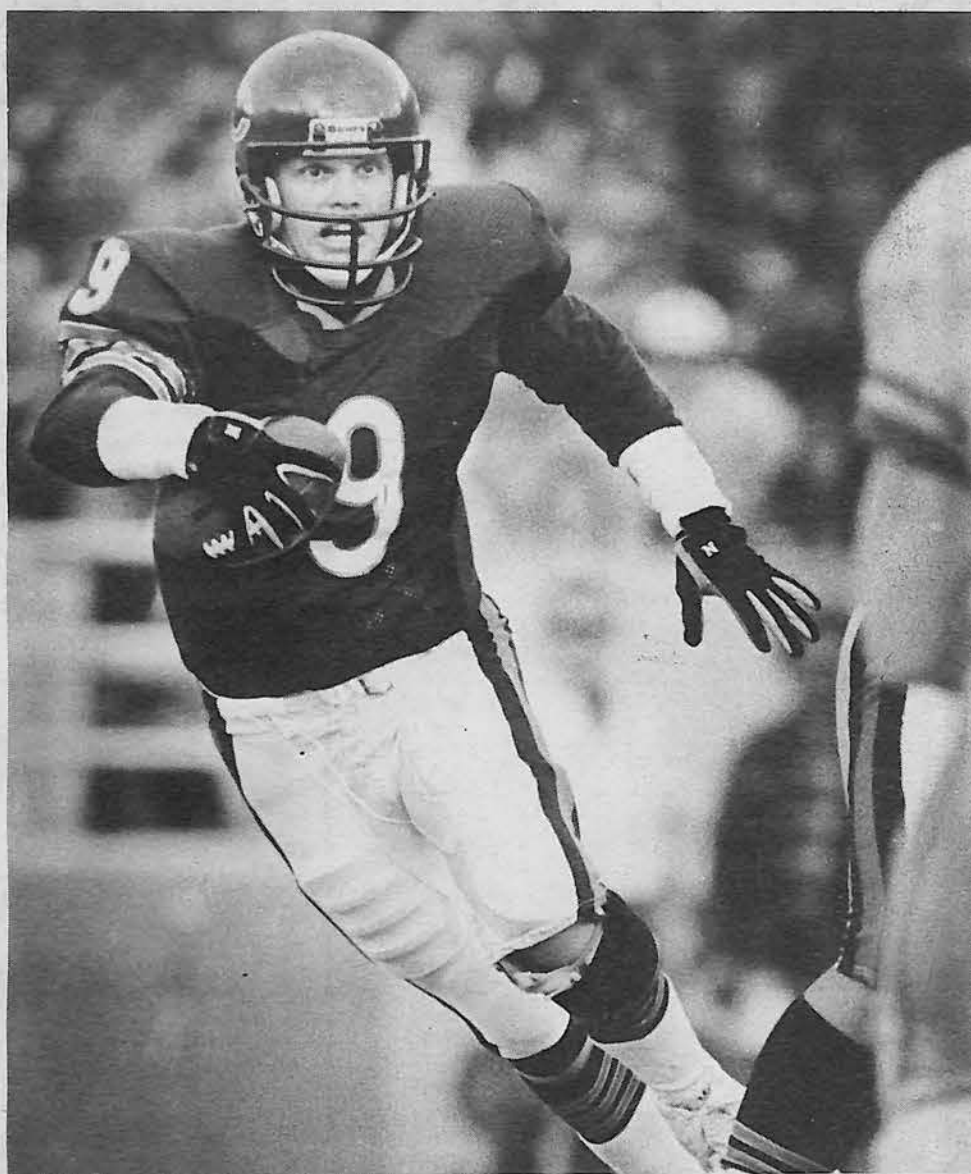
Muscles must act together

While the scapula does its balancing act, Jobe said, "The rotator cuff muscles are firing, trying to keep the ball in the socket. The deltoid muscle gives you strength. And then you have a capsule and labrum, which are what we call static stabilizers, meaning you can't contract them. All these things need to act in concert."

Overhead throwing apparently erodes the capsule and labrum. Which pinches the rotator cuff. Which brought Jobe to the need for rebuilding the capsule and labrum.

"You tighten it up," he said, "and reposition it and overlap it so you're making it stronger by double-layering it." It's flat fibrous tissue, he said, about the thickness of 20 sheets of paper.

There were other problems. Doctors had to figure out how to rebuild the capsule and



Jim McMahon's return to the playing field has not only been a victory for him, but for sports medicine in general. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)



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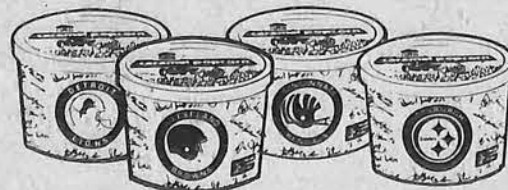
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Continued Page 14

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT

Chicago Bears

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	204	25	3	Georgia
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	28	6	BYU
14	Jim Harbaugh	QB	6-3	202	23	R	Michigan
15	Bryan Wagner	P	6-2	195	25	1	Cal-Northridge
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	25	3	Ohio St.
20	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	25	3	Texas A&M
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	210	26	5	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	S	5-11	193	25	4	Ohio St.
24	Vestee Jackson	CB	6-0	186	24	2	Washington
25	Todd Bell	S	6-1	212	28	6	Ohio St.
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	29	8	Penn. St.
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	26	5	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	WR	5-8	180	28	6	Baylor
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	27	6	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	205	33	13	Jackson St.
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	210	23	2	Florida
37	Maurice Douglass	DB	5-11	200	23	2	Kentucky
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	193	33	12	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	26	3	S. Methodist
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	235	29	7	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	222	24	3	Michigan St.
53	Mark Rodenhauser	C	6-5	260	26	R	Illinois St.
57	Tom Thayer	G	6-4	280	26	3	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	230	25	4	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	235	25	4	California
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	275	26	5	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	260	27	7	Iowa
68	Paul Blair	T	6-4	295	24	2	Oklahoma St.
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	315	24	3	Clemson
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	275	27	5	Pittsburgh
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	265	30	8	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	285	29	7	USC
79	Kurt Becker	G	6-5	280	28	6	Michigan
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-1	183	27	5	Tennessee
84	Ron Morris	WR	6-1	187	22	R	SMU
85	Dennis McKinnon	WR	6-1	185	26	4	Florida St.
86	Cap Boso	TE	6-3	224	25	1	Illinois
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	225	33	11	Colorado
88	Keith Ortego	WR	6-0	180	24	3	McNeese St.
90	Al Harris	LB/DE	6-5	270	30	8	Arizona St.
92	Paul Miglizzo	LB	6-1	228	21	R	Oklahoma
93	Will Johnson	DE	6-4	245	22	R	N.E. Louisiana
94	Dick Chapura	DT	6-3	280	21	R	Missouri
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	26	5	Tennessee St.
97	Sean Smith	DE	6-4	275	22	R	Grambling
INACTIVE/REGULAR SEASON							
47	Egypt Allen	DB	6-0	203	23	1	Texas Christian
54	John Adickes	C	6-3	264	23	R	Baylor
70	Jim Althoff	DT	6-3	278	26	1	Winona St.
73	John Wojciechowski	G	6-4	262	24	1	Michigan St.
91	Jay Norvell	LB	6-2	232	24	1	Iowa

INJURED RESERVE: WR Lew Barnes; S Kyle Kafentzis; C Larry Rubens; G Ronnie James Carter; TE Tim Wrightman; WR Votie Patterson; DE Dan Hampton; LB Otis Wilson; DB Lorenzo Lynch; HB Anthony Mosley; DL/TE Keith Smith; DT/OL Eugene Rowell; WR Glen Kozlowski.

PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM: QB Steve Fuller.

Facts and Figures

Kickoff: Monday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m. Central time.
Site: Candlestick Park, San Francisco.

Playing surface: Natural grass.

Series record: The Bears hold a slight 24-22-1 edge in the series that dates back to 1950. The 49ers won the teams' only post-season meeting. The teams last met in 1985 in San Francisco, a 26-10 Bear win that avenged Chicago's 23-0 loss to the 49ers in the 1984 NFC Championship game. The last time the teams met at Soldier Field was in 1983, a 13-3 win by Chicago.

Radio-TV coverage: The game will be televised nationally live by ABC-TV, channel 7 in Chicago. WGN-Radio and the Bears radio network also will carry the game live. WOJO (105 FM) will broadcast the game live in Spanish.



49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice

San Francisco

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.
4	Max Runager	P	6-1	189	31	9
8	Steve Young	QB	6-2	200	26	3
11	Bob Gaglione	QB	6-3	195	29	4
14	Ray Wersching	PK	5-11	215	37	15
16	Joe Montana	QB	6-2	195	31	9
20	Tory Nixon	CB	5-11	186	25	3
22	Tim McKyer	CB	6-0	174	24	2
24	Harry Sydney	FB	6-0	217	28	1
25	Doug DuBose	RB	5-11	190	23	R
27	Carlton Williamson	S	6-0	204	29	7
28	Joe Cribbs	RB	5-11	193	29	7
29	Don Griffin	CB	6-0	176	23	2
32	Terrence Flagler	RB	6-0	200	23	R
33	Roger Craig	RB	6-0	224	27	5
42	Ronnie Lott	S	6-0	200	28	7
43	Dana McLemore	CB	5-10	183	27	6
44	Tom Rathman	FB	6-1	232	25	2
46	Tom Holmoe	S	6-2	195	27	4
49	Jeff Fuller	S/LB	6-2	216	25	4
51	Randy Cross	G/C	6-3	265	33	12
53	Milt McColl	LB	6-6	230	28	7
55	Jim Fahnhorst	LB	6-4	230	28	4
56	Fred Quilan	C	6-5	266	31	10
58	Keena Turner	LB	6-2	222	29	8
59	Darren Comeaux	LB	6-1	227	27	6
60	Chuck Thomas	C	6-3	280	26	2
61	Jesse Sapolu	G/C	6-4	280	26	2
65	Jeff Bregel	G	6-4	280	23	R
67	Pete Kugler	NT/DE	6-4	255	28	5
69	Bruce Collie	T/G	6-6	275	25	3
72	Jeff Stover	DE	6-5	275	29	6
74	Steve Wallace	T	6-5	276	22	2
75	Kevin Fagan	DE	6-3	260	24	1
76	Dwaine Board	DE	6-5	248	30	8
77	William "Bubba" Paris	T	6-6	306	27	5
79	Harris Barton	T	6-4	280	23	R
80	Jerry Rice	WR	6-2	200	25	3
81	Russ Francis	TE	6-6	242	34	12
82	John Taylor	WR	6-1	185	25	1
85	Mike Wilson	WR	6-3	215	28	7
86	John Frank	TE	6-3	225	25	4
87	Dwight Clark	WR	6-4	215	30	9
89	Ron Heller	TE	6-3	235	24	1
90	Todd Shell	LB	6-4	225	25	3
91	Larry Roberts	DE	6-3	264	24	2
93	Clyde Glover	DE	6-6	280	27	1
94	Charles Haley	DE	6-5	230	23	2
95	Michael Carter	NT	6-2	285	27	4
97	Doug Mikolas	NT	6-1	270	25	1
99	Michael Walter	LB	6-3	238	26	5

HEAD COACH: Bill Walsh

ASSISTANT COACHES: Jerry Attaway, Dennis Green, Tommy Hart, Mike Holmgren, Sherman Lewis, Bobb McKittrick, Bill McPherson, Ray Rhodes, George Seifert, Lynn Stiles, Fred vonAppen

*Age as of Nov. 1, 1987

There will be no rest for the Chicago Bears in December. After an important game against the Vikings Sunday night, the Bears now travel to the West Coast to meet the San Francisco 49ers on Monday night.

This game plays just as important of a role in the playoff picture as the Vikings' game did. With the 49ers and Bears possessing the top records in the NFC, the winner of this game could go a long way in securing the home-field advantage for the playoffs.

This will be another good test for the Bears, especially their defensive secondary. The 49er offense is led by the most explosive passing combination in the league, quarterback Joe Montana and wide receiver Jerry Rice.

Rice, in only his third year in the league out of Mississippi Valley St., already is heavily rewriting the 49er record books. Against the Cleveland Browns two weeks ago, Rice caught three touchdown passes from Montana as the 49ers rolled past the Browns, 38-24.

Montana threw for 342 yards and four touchdowns in the game. His primary receiver, of course, was Rice. Rice caught seven passes for 126 yards in the game. His three touchdown catches marked the fourth time he's done that in his career, tying a team record for most touchdown catches in a game. It was the fourth multiple touchdown game of 1987 for Rice and the eighth of his short career.

Rice has streak going

Going into last week's game against the Packers, Rice had a team-record nine-game streak with at least one touchdown catch. He's scored 14 touchdowns in eight games this season and 29 in his past 21 contests.

Rice already has 12 games in which he's totaled at least 100 yards in receiving, including four this year.

Rice is ranked third in the conference in receptions with 46 and second in receiving yardage with 765.

He's benefiting from the great year Montana is having. Montana leads the NFC in passing with a 100.3 rating going into the Green Bay game. He's completed two-thirds of his passes, including 27 for touchdowns.

Joining him in the backfield is one of the league's top all-purpose back, Roger Craig. Craig is third in the NFC in total yards from scrimmage with 1,000. He had a streak of six straight 100-yard combined games earlier this year.

Doing the blocking in the backfield is second-year fullback Tom Rathman, who has gained 128 yards on 33 carries this year.

Veteran Joe Cribbs gives Craig his rest and has gained 172 yards on 36 carries.

Montana and his backs have benefitted from a rebuilt offensive line. Second-year player Steve Wallace replaced Bubba Paris at left tackle, and 12-year veteran Randy Cross has moved to center. Replacing Cross at left guard is Jesse Sapolu, who's in his

second year.

On the right side of the line are third-year guard Bruce Collie and rookie Harris Barton.

Wilson at other receiver spot

Mike Wilson complements Rice at the other wideout and is backed up by veteran Dwight Clark. Another veteran receiver, Russ Francis, is at tight end. Francis has 22 catches this year for 202 yards, and he's still a good blocker.

The 49er defense has not been strong against the pass. It has just 24 sacks this year, and 11 have come during replacement games. But it's ranked fifth overall in the league, and fifth against both the run and the pass.

The 49ers' defensive line consists of left end Pete Kugler, who leads the team in sacks with 4½, right end Kevin Fagan and nose tackle Michael Carter, one of the best in the league.

The leading linebacker on the team is right inside linebacker Michael Walter, who leads the team in tackles with 64. Joining Walter on the inside on the left side is Jim Fahnhorst.

At outside linebacker, eight-year veteran Keena Turner and seven-year man Milt McColl play the pass well.

In the secondary, Ronnie Lott has seen his interception tally fall dramatically this year. Last season Lott picked off 10 passes, but has only one this year. The 49ers have 13 interceptions as a team.

Strong safety Jeff Fuller is second on the

team in tackles with 58, and cornerbacks Don Griffin and Tim McKyer are both in just their second years.

Tory Nixon and Doug McLemore are the veteran backups at cornerback. Tom Holmoe backs up the safety positions.

Wersching kicking well

On special teams, Ray Wersching is perfect from inside 40 yards, making all eight of his attempts. But between 40 and 49 yards away, he's just two for six. He has yet to attempt a field goal from over 50 yards this year. He's a perfect 26 for 26 on extra points.

Veteran punter Max Runager is struggling a little with just a 39.2-yard average. He's had one kick blocked this year.

On punt returns, Dan Griffin is averaging 8.8 yards on nine returns this year, and Dana McLemore has a 6.7-yard average on 14 returns.

Joe Cribbs has returned nine kickoffs for a 21.7-yard average, and Harry Sydney has a 21.8-yard average on 10 returns.

San Francisco is 3-1 this year at home, with its only loss coming to New Orleans, 26-24 on Nov. 15. The Bears' game is the first of three straight home games with which the 49ers end the season.

As far as the home-field playoff advantage is concerned, San Francisco definitely has the edge over Chicago as far as schedules are concerned. The 49ers end the year against the Falcons and Rams after playing the Bears.

Chicago on offense**SPECIALISTS**

Punter
15 Bryan Wagner
Kicker
6 Kevin Butler
Holder
18 Mike Tomczak

OFFENSE

RB
34 Walter Payton
20 Thomas Sanders
35 Neal Anderson

QB
9 Jim McMahon
18 Mike Tomczak
14 Jim Harbaugh

FB
35 Neal Anderson
26 Matt Suhey
33 Calvin Thomas

SPECIALISTS

Punt returner
85 Dennis McKinnon
Kick returner
29 Dennis Gentry
Kick center
54 John Adickes

WR
83 Willie Gault
29 Dennis Gentry
89 Keith Ortego

TE
87 Emery Moorehead
86 Cap Boso

RT
78 Keith Van Horne
68 Paul Blair

RG
57 Tom Thayer
79 Kurt Becker

C
63 Jay Hilgenberg
54 John Adickes

LG
62 Mark Bortz
79 Kurt Becker

LT
74 Jim Covert
68 Paul Blair

WR
84 Ron Morris
85 Dennis McKinnon

DEFENSE

LC
22 Tim McKyer
20 Tony Nixon

LOLB
53 Milt McColl
94 Charles Haley

LE
67 Pete Kugler
72 Jeff Stover
93 Clyde Glover

NT
95 Michael Carter
97 Doug Mikolas

RE
75 Kevin Fagan
76 Dwaine Board
91 Larry Roberts

RC
29 Don Griffin
43 Dana McLemore

ROLB
58 Keena Turner
52 George Cooper

LILB
55 Jim Fahnhorst
59 Darren Comeaux

RILB
99 Michael Walter
59 Darren Comeaux

FS
42 Ronnie Lott
46 Tom Holmoe

SS
49 Jeff Fuller
46 Tom Holmoe

San Francisco on offense**SPECIALISTS**

Punter
4 Max Runager
Kicker
14 Ray Wersching
Holder
16 Joe Montana

OFFENSE

RB
33 Roger Craig
28 Joe Cribbs
25 Doug DuBose
32 Terrance Flagler

QB
16 Joe Montana
8 Steve Young
11 Bob Gagliano

FB
44 Tom Rathman
24 Harry Sydney
35 Del Rodgers

Punt returner
43 Dana McLemore
29 Don Griffin
82 John Taylor

Kick returner
35 Del Rodgers
24 Harry Sydney
32 Terrence Flagler

FL
80 Jerry Rice
82 John Taylor

TE
81 Russ Francis
89 Ron Heller
86 John Frank

RT
79 Harris Barton
69 Bruce Collie

RG
69 Bruce Collie
61 Jesse Sapolu

C
51 Randy Cross
56 Fred Quillan
60 Chuck Thomas

LG
61 Jesse Sapolu
65 Jeff Bregel

LT
74 Steve Wallace
77 Bubba Paris

SE
85 Mike Wilson
87 Dwight Clark

DEFENSE

LCB
27 Mike Richardson
48 Reggie Phillips

LE
90 Al Harris
97 Sean Smith

LT
76 Steve McMichael
94 Dick Chapura

RT
72 William Perry
94 Dick Chapura

RE
95 Richard Dent
90 Al Harris

RCB
24 Vestee Jackson
27 Mike Richardson

LLB
59 Ron Rivera
51 Jim Morrissey
92 Paul Migliazzo

MLB
50 Mike Singletary
59 Ron Rivera

RLB
58 Wilber Marshall
59 Ron Rivera
67 Will Johnson

FS
22 Dave Duerson
45 Gary Fencik

SS
25 Todd Bell
22 Dave Duerson
37 Maurice Douglas

Victory

Continued From Page 4

way to the end zone, cutting the Bear lead to 20-14.

Carter strikes again

Carter scored his second touchdown of the night on Minnesota's next series on a 35-yard pass from Wilson. Carter got behind Vestee Jackson in the end zone to make the catch.

The Vikings tried to make it three touchdowns on three possessions in the second half when a Wilson pass to Hassan Jones on third down gained 32 yards to the Bear 16. But the drive stalled at the 10, and Chuck Nelson's 27-yard field-goal attempt was good, increasing the Viking lead to 24-20 with 13:47 left to play.

The Bears closed to within a point on a 12-play, 52-yard drive that ended with Butler's 30-yard field goal with 8:51 to play.

But it was a costly drive for the Bears, who lost McMahon when he injured his hamstring scrambling for a first down on third and nine from the Viking 48. McMahon was a yard short of the first down, but as he dived he was hit by Wymon Henderson, who was called for a personal foul. That gave the Bears a first down at the Viking 25.

Tomczak entered the game in place of McMahon and got the Bears to the Viking 11. But he couldn't get the ball in the end zone on three straight pass plays, so Butler came in for the field goal.

From there the defense held and, for a change, Tomczak rescued McMahon from a ride that wasn't turning out to be much fun.

"I've been excited before but I never felt this way," Ditka said after the game. "Every cliché you ever heard about in life, they proved it. You're never out of anything until you tell yourself you're out of it. And they refused to say that."

"Of all the wins I've ever been around, this is a pretty good one. I put my foot in my mouth with the Rollerdome, and sometimes it's hard to get my feet out of my mouth."

But somehow, the Bears managed to do that before Ditka got sick on his own ride.

Lamb

Continued From Page 11

labrum without cutting through the layers of muscles across the front of the shoulder. That was worked out, but when McMahon had his surgery, Jobe said, doctors still didn't know "how to get muscles firing back in concert." They hoped it would come during rehabilitation, when the muscles would be re-educated to function as a unit. In McMahon's case, Jobe said that seemed to happen.

He'll get better, Jobe said. The estimate of two years for full recovery was not a guess. It's something he said "we've learned from the physiology of tissues." And the procedure will get better, too.

"Whenever you are doing something with a new approach, you're going to be improving it over time," Jobe said. But McMahon has graduated from pioneer to prototype. "We're very gratified," Jobe said, "by what's going on."



While Jim McMahon was on the sidelines recuperating from shoulder surgery, his surgeon, Dr. Frank Jobe, wasn't sure if McMahon would fully recover. (Bear Report photo by Steve Woltmann)

Statistics

Continued From Page 5

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Guggemos	6	106	28	0
Nelson, D.	1	42	42	0

FUMBLES	Fum.	Own	Rec.	Yds.	TD
Jordan	1	0	0	0	0
Lewis	0	1	0	0	0
Guggemos	1	1	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

(Unofficial)

Chicago Bears

	T	A	S	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Duerson	4	1	0	0	1	1	0
Jackson	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bell	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richardson	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Singletary	7	5	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rivera	5	1	1	-1	0	1	0
Perry	4	1	1	-5	0	0	0
McMichael	8	4	2½	-12	0	0	0
Harris	1	2	½	-3	0	0	0
Dent	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Phillips	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gayle	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Minnesota Vikings

	T	A	S	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Henderson	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Holt	3	2	0	0	1	1	0
Lee	1	3	0	0	1	1	0
Harris	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Browner	3	4	0	0	0	0	0
Solomon	6	3	0	0	0	0	0
Studwell	6	0	0	0	0	0	1
Doleman	5	1	1	-9	0	0	0
Martin, C.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mays	3	1	2	-9	0	0	1
Martin, D.	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thomas	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lewis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Guggemos	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Howard	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

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NFL NOTEBOOK

Redskins' regulars struggling at 5-3

The Washington Redskins, picked by many to win the Super Bowl after the initial dust settled from the strike, are struggling. The symptoms were there in their Week 10 Monday night loss to the slumping Rams that dropped them to 7-3.

The Redskins still have a commanding lead in the NFC East. But their regulars are only 5-3. "We're just going to have to have a major overhaul," said coach Joe Gibbs. "We'll revamp everything if we have to. We're going to look at everything."

"We've been a very misleading team," said GM Bobby Beathard. "We've been sitting atop the NFC East but that really isn't us."

BRIAN HEWITT



TAPED SHUT:

Indianapolis head coach Ron Meyer is ruling the day he agreed to be "miked" on the sidelines of the Colts' recent loss at New England.

The tape proved to be embarrassing when it revealed the voice of meddlesome team owner Robert Irsay suggesting Meyer replace starting quarterback Gary Hogeboom with backup Jack Trudeau in the third quarter. When Meyer finally inserted Trudeau in the fourth period, the tape also revealed Hogeboom's anger and Meyer's subsequent inability to assert himself in trying to explain his reasons to Hogeboom.

Meyer picked the Patriot game to be taped ostensibly because he thought the Colts would win. Plus, it was his first return to New

England since the Patriots fired him.

The Colts had seven possessions in the third quarter. They punted twice, had one punt blocked (resulting in a New England touchdown), threw three interceptions (one of which was returned for a touchdown) and fumbled once.

GIANT MIDGETS:

The New York Giants, in full retreat, started nine players on Nov. 22 who didn't start in their Super Bowl XXI victory. They lost to New Orleans.

The Giants had 15 possessions in the game and passed on the first play of all drives. That's a direct contrast to the style that got them to the top of the NFL last year.

"The fat lady started singing weeks ago," said New York linebacker Lawrence Taylor after the game. "Today she finished her tune." At this point last year the Giants were in the middle of a 12-game winning streak. In the last 31 minutes against the Saints, the Giants suffered seven turnovers, a blocked punt and a missed field goal.

BOSWORTH SCHMOZZWORTH:

In case anybody out there cares, Seattle rookie linebacker Brian Bosworth has stopped wearing anything with the No. 44 sketched on it. Bosworth had been doing so regularly as a protest against league rules that requires linebackers to wear numbers in the 50s.

Bosworth also refused to talk to writers recently after Seattle smashed San Diego because two local columnists had suggested he be benched.

LOSING UGLY:

The Bengals started out 0-6 at home this year and 0-4 in the AFC Central division. Other than that it's been a good year. "Everybody talks about building character," said Bengal quarterback Boomer Esiason. "I'd give a little character for a win, to tell the truth."

BLOCK THAT KICK:

Through 10 games the Rams had blocked four punts. The last time they blocked a punt prior to this season was 1984. Three of this year's blocks led to immediate scores and the other set up a short touchdown drive.

HAYNES ALL OVER:

New England safety Jim Bowman had his bell rung in the first quarter of the Patriots' Nov. 22 victory over the Colts. Team doctors were concerned when he said, "I don't know who I am."

Teammate Robert Weathers, standing nearby, came over and told Bowman, "You're Mike Haynes, kid, Mike Haynes."

Weathers was referring to Pro Bowl Raider cornerback Mike Haynes, a former Patriot. Oddly enough, Bowman later returned to the game and started playing like Mike Haynes. He finished with two interceptions, a fumble recovery and eight tackles.

OPPORTUNITY KNOX:

To show just how popular the Seahawks and coach Chuck Knox are in Seattle, consider the following:

After a recent loss to the Jets on Monday Night Football, Knox's post-game television show had a rating of 30.2 and a 43 share. It turned out to be the highest-rated show in Seattle that week except for the Cosby Show. Knox's show even got a higher rating than the game.

BO PEEPS:

Raider running back Bo Jackson was asked after a recent game about his future

athletic plans. "Summer, baseball," he said. "Now, football."

"I don't know (of any) plans right now," said Raider coach Tom Flores of Jackson's future. "I haven't personally asked him though I think he's made it quite clear that when spring ball comes around he's going to be in baseball camp."

NOTES AND QUOTES:

•Eagle coach Buddy Ryan on Giant tight end Mark Bavaro: "Against us he was King Kong, against the Bears he was like Ned in The First Reader."

•First-year Kansas City coach Frank Gansz on his team's problems: "Ultimately it is my responsibility. At times I think our inexperience as a staff has shown."

•Thursday's Cowboy-Vikings game was the first Thanksgiving game blacked out on local Dallas television since 1974. The Cowboys have played every year at home on Thanksgiving since then except two (1975 and 1977).

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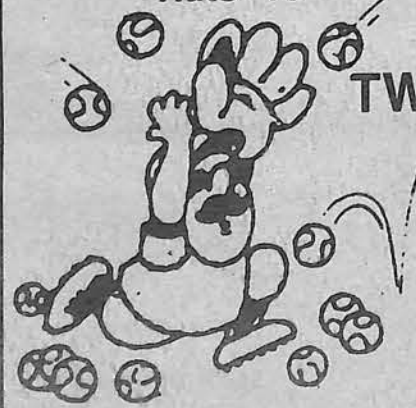
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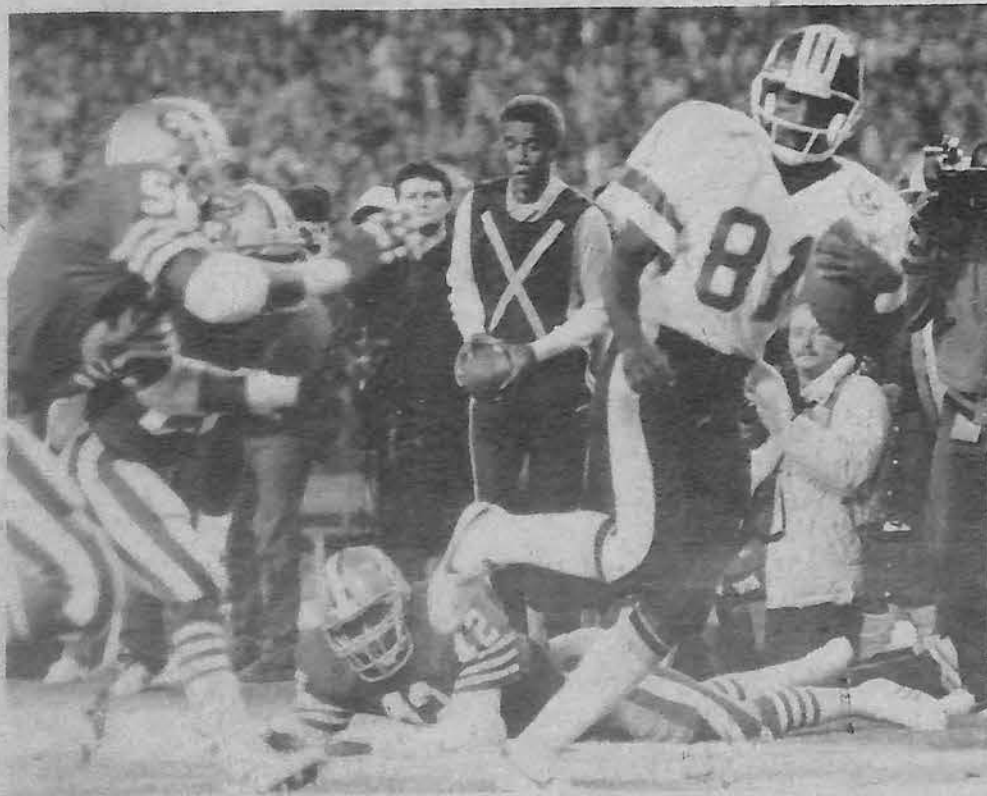
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Art Monk and the rest of the Redskins have struggled lately, posting only a 5-3 record in games not played by the replacement players.

BEARS SEASON STATISTICS

CHICAGO BEARS STATISTICS

WON 9, LOST 2

Sept 14	W 34-19	Giants	65,704
Sept 20	W 20-3	Tampa Bay	63,551
Oct 4	W 35-3	at Philadelphia	4,074
Oct 11	W 27-7	Minnesota	32,113
Oct 18	L 17-19	New Orleans	46,813
Oct 25	W 27-26	at Tampa Bay	70,747
Nov 1	W 31-28	Kansas City	63,498
Nov 8	W 26-24	at Green Bay	53,320
Nov 16	L 29-31	at Denver	75,783
Nov 22	W 30-10	Detroit	63,357
Nov 29	W 23-10	Green Bay	61,638
Dec 6		at Minnesota	
Dec 14		at San Francisco	
Dec 20		Seattle	
Dec 27		at Raiders	

	Bears	Opponents
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	228	192
Rushing	86	49
Passing	111	122
Penalty	31	21
3rd Down: Made/Att	52/153	56/167
4th Down: Made/Att	10/18	2/11
TOTAL NET YARDS	3654	3035
Avg. Per Game	332.2	275.9
Total Plays	753	729
Avg. Per Play	4.9	4.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	1404	923
Avg. Per Game	127.6	83.9
Total Rushes	357	289
NET YARDS PASSING	2250	2112
Avg. Per Game	204.5	192.0
Tackled/Yards Lost	37/260	51/372
Gross Yards	2510	2484
Att./Completions	359/203	389/190
Completion Pct.	56.5	48.8
Had Intercepted	16	11
PUNTS/AVERAGE	46/ 39.3	64/ 39.9
NET PUNTING AVG.	31.9	31.3
PENALTIES/YARDS	74/ 597	96/ 830
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	22/11	30/10
TOUCHDOWNS	36	21
Rushing	11	3
Passing	19	15
Returns	6	3

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Butler	0/0	9/9	2/2	1/4	2/5
Lashar	0/0	3/3	0/0	0/1	0/0
BEARS	0/0	12/12	2/2	1/5	2/5
OPPONENTS	0/0	3/4	4/9	5/8	0/1

Butler: (24G, 25G) (50N, 55N) () () () (47N) (27G, 52N) (47N, 48N, 27G, 29G, 24G, 52G) (42G) (31G, 37G, 29G) (21G, 27G, 52G)
 Lashar: () () () (42N, 26G, 27G) (22G)
 BEARS: (24G, 25G) (50N, 55N) () (42N, 26G, 27G) (22G) (47N) (27G, 52N) (47N, 48N, 27G, 29G, 24G, 52G) (42G) (31G, 37G, 29G) (21G, 27G, 52G)
 OPPONENTS: () (43G, 46N) (42N, 27G) (31N) (33N, 48G, 31G, 42G, 21G) (46G, 37G) (35N) (39N, 26N, 47G) (27G) (36G) (42N, 32G, 50N, 37N)

SACKS	
Dent	7.0
Wilson	5.5
Marshall	5.0
Hampton	2.0
Perry	2.0
Singletary	2.0
McMichael	1.5
T.Bell	1.0
Duerson	1.0
A.Harris	1.0
others	23.0
BEARS	51.0
OPPONENTS	37.0

RUSHING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Anderson	102	455	4.5	t38	3
W.Payton	92	315	3.4	17	2
Sanders	16	90	5.6	17	1
McMahon	17	56	3.3	13	2
Thomas	16	46	2.9	18	0
Gentry	5	32	6.4	12	0
Tomczak	5	14	2.8	10	1
Gault	1	9	9.0	9	0
Marshall	1	1	1.0	1	0
Perry	1	0	0.0	0	0

others	117	476	4.1	28	3
BEARS	357	1404	3.9	t38	11
OPPONENTS	289	923	3.2	20	3

RECEIVING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Anderson	38	403	10.6	t59	3
W.Payton	26	150	5.8	16	1
Gault	25	548	21.9	t56	5
Moorehead	18	193	10.7	27	0
McKinnon	16	234	14.6	t31	1
Boso	15	136	9.1	t28	2
Ro.Morris	13	267	20.5	t42	1
Gentry	5	35	7.0	19	0
Suhey	3	17	5.7	7	0
Sanders	2	28	14.0	20	0
others	42	499	11.9	28	6
BEARS	203	2510	12.4	t59	19
OPPONENTS	190	2484	13.1	66	15

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Rivera	2	19	9.5	15	0
Phillips	2	1	0.5	1	0
Duerson	2	0	0.0	0	0
Gayle	1	20	20.0	t20	1
Douglass	1	0	0.0	0	0
V.Jackson	1	0	0.0	0	0
others	2	29	14.5	t23	1
BEARS	11	69	6.3	t23	2
OPPONENTS	16	202	12.6	t70	1

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg	Bk
Brown	18	742	41.2	4	4	58	1
Wagner	26	1066	41.0	4	8	71	1
BEARS	46	1808	39.3	8	12	71	2
OPPONENTS	64	2555	39.9	6	11	60	1

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Player	Total	Solo	Assists	PD's	FR's	FC	BL	Sacks/Y
Dave Duerson	75	41	34	2	1	1	0	1 / 0
Todd Bell	56	31	25	2	0	1	0	1 / 4
Wilber Marshall	70	38	32	4	1	2	0	5 / 22
Otis Wilson	36	16	20	2	0	0	0	5.5 / 52
Mike Singletary	68	38	30	3	1	3	0	2 / 14
Richard Dent	25	12	13	3	2	3	0	7 / 68
William Perry	39	20	19	2	0	0	0	2 / 20
Steve McMichael	40	18	22	2	0	0	0	1.5 / 5
Reggie Phillips	25	13	12	2	0	0	0	0 / 0
Dan Hampton	17	9	8	2	0	1	1	2 / 9
Vestee Jackson	23	13	10	3	0	0	0	0 / 0
Gary Fencik	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0 / 0
Jim Morrissey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0
Will Johnson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0
Maurice Douglass	3	3	0	2	0	0	0	0 / 0
Ron Rivera	17	7	10	1	0	0	0	0 / 0
Al Harris	4	0	4	2	0	0	2	0 / 0
Sean Smith	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0
Mike Richardson	19	13	6	5	0	0	0	0 / 0
Shaun Gayle	4	1	3	2	0	0	0	0 / 0
Dick Chapura	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0 / 0

PASSING	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
McMahon	188	114	1453	60.6	7.73	10	5.3	7	3.7	t59	21/ 129	87.0
Tomczak	78	47	558	60.3	7.15	3	3.8	4	5.1	t56	2/ 26	73.6
Hohensee	52	28	343	53.8	6.60	4	7.7	1	1.9	28	3/ 19	92.1
S.Payton	23	8	79	34.8	3.43	0	0.0	1	4.3	20	7/ 47	27.3
Bradley	18	6	77	33.3	4.28	2	11.1	3	16.7	t18	3/ 24	45.1
Harbaugh	0	0	0	---	---	0	---	0	---	0	1/ 15	0.0
BEARS	359	203	2510	56.5	6.99	19	5.3	16	4.5	t59	37/ 260	77.4
OPPONENTS	389	190	2484	48.8	6.39	15	3.9	11	2.8	66	51/ 372	70.5

PUNT RETURNS	Ret	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
McKinnon	28	4	366	13.1	t94	2
others	9	1	69	7.7	16	0
BEARS	37	5	435	11.8	t94	2
OPPONENTS	19	4	180	9.5	37	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Gentry	18	486	27.0	t88	1
Sanders	8	166	20.8	42	0
T.Bell	1	18	18.0	18	0
others	10	196	19.6	37	0
BEARS	37	866	23.4	t88	1
OPPONENTS	43	746	17.3	33	0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1	2	3	4	OT	Total
BEARS	69	106	45	79	0	299
OPPONENTS	62	67	19	32	0	180

SCORING	TD	Ru	Pa	Rt	PAT	FG	S	TP
Butler	0	0	0	22/24	14/20	0	0	64
Anderson	3	3	0	0/0	0/0	0	0	36
Gault	0	5	0	0/0	0/0	0	0	30
McKinnon	0	1	2	0/0	0/0	0	0	18
W.Payton	2	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	0	18
Boso	0	2	0	0/0	0/0	0	0	12
McMahon	2	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	0	12
Gayle	0	0	1	0/0	0/0	0	0	6
Gentry	0	0	1	0/0	0/0	0	0	6
Ro.Morris	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	0	6
Sanders	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	0	6
Tomczak	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	0	6
others	2	6	2	10/10	3/4	0	0	91
BEARS	11	19	6	32/36	17/24	0	0	299
OPPONENTS	3	15	3	18/21	12/22	0	0	180

SIDELINES

Burns respects Bears

Though the Bear defense has been criticized since the strike, Vikings' head coach Jerry Burns says it's every bit as good as it was before.

"I think Vince Tobin has done a great job," Burns said. "I think they're every bit as strong as any Bear team. They have capable players on defense. They're as dominating as ever."

The Bears went into Sunday's game as 1½ point underdogs, but Burns doesn't understand why. "I can't understand how they can favor us," he said. "The Bears look tough to me. They got their jaws set."

"(Wilber) Marshall and (Mike) Singletary have got to be as good as they are in the business. (Walter) Payton is probably the greatest running back of all time. He's been the heart and soul of the Bear offense. I haven't seen any better back than Walter Payton."

Payton made his last regular-season appearance against the Vikings Sunday night.

Vikings quarterback Tommy Kramer didn't think much about the point spread, either. "I think if we were playing in Chicago they'd be favored," he said. "They look the same as ever. They're very good defensively, there's no question about that. They're always right up there at the top as far as statistics in the league. They're playing some good football now."

Bear of the week: Cap Boso

Age: 24

Height: 6-3

Weight: 224

College: Illinois

Marital status: Single.

Hobbies: I like to watch pro and college football. And I like to play basketball and ski.

The last good movie I saw: Platoon. I like war movies.

The most recent book I've read: The Grunts. It's about Vietnam.

Favorite actors: Bill Murray and John Wayne.

Favorite musicians: I really don't have any. I'm not into music that much.

Favorite childhood memory: Getting my first bike for my birthday when I was in second grade.

Heroes: Ed Podolak and Willie Lanier of the Chiefs.

Nobody knows I'm: Kind of shy.

Philosophy of life: Take one day at a time.

The worst part of my job: Driving through all the construction on the way to practice.

My fantasy is: To play in the Super Bowl.

The weirdest thing I've ever done: When I was young I jumped from one three-story roof to another. They were about five or six feet apart.

Favorite television show: The Wild, Wild West.

Favorite pig-out food: Pizza. Papa Del's in Champaign, Ill. has the best.



The car I drive: Ford Bronco II.
My friends in high school thought I was: Going to play baseball instead of football.

Life after football: I'd like to go back to college and get my master's degree in education. I'd like to teach business education.

Duerson nominated for Man of the Year

After four of Dave Duerson's childhood friends died because of drugs while he was at Notre Dame, Duerson went on to form football camps that would make kids aware of the dangers of drug abuse.

The camps, called DAMCO II, were organized by Duerson after he started his career with the Bears in 1983. But the not-for-profit organization is just one of many charities Duerson is involved with that led to

his being named the Bears' nominee for the NFL Man of the Year award, sponsored by The Travelers Companies.

The award is presented annually to the NFL player who best combines community service with on-field excellence. Each nominee's chosen charity receives \$1,000 from The Travelers Companies Foundation, and a \$25,000 contribution will be made to a charity named by the NFL Man of the Year, who will be announced at the Super Bowl.

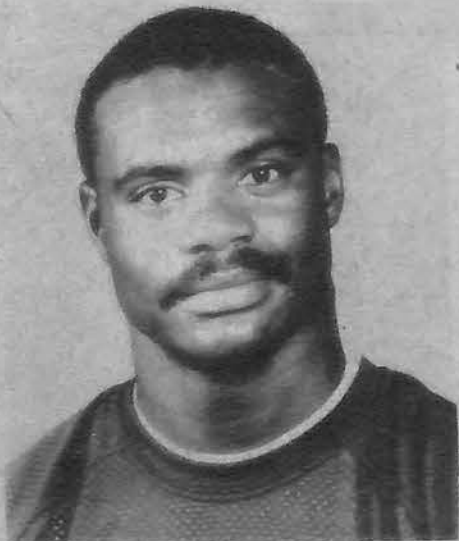
Duerson organized DAMCO II with the help of his brother and his father. The original camp was a three-day session in Muncie, Ind., Duerson's hometown. It grew to six football camps that were held throughout Illinois last July.

The camps give children an opportunity to meet and work with a number of Bears' players while they learn how to avoid drugs, improve self esteem and develop leadership.

Other charities Duerson works with include the Tuberculosis Association, the Kids Safe Program at Highland Park Hospital, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Brian Piccolo Cancer Research and Jim McMahon's Exceptional Children's Charities.

Duerson also is on the advisory board of the Chicago Public Schools and was the grand marshal of the 1986 Special Olympics.

The NFL Man of the Year award was inaugurated in 1970. Past winners include Hall of Famers Johnny Unitas, Len Dawson, Willie Lanier and George Blanda.



Dave Duerson

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Bears look fun again

Dear Doug,

We've just witnessed the Bears tame the Lions. The game lacked the excitement of some earlier ones, but it was reminiscent of the 1985 Super Bowl champs — dominating and demeaning. How sweet it was.

We will cast our non-counting votes for Chevrolet's play of the game for Calvin Thomas' four-yard fourth-quarter Payton-like stretch. No doubt, the Monsters of the Midway had fun. So did we. In 1985 we were the youngest NFL team. Our defensive line has lost a step or two while adding a pound or two, but our offense has picked us up. When was the last time the Bear offense averaged so many points? Never.

Pat, Dave and Porky Rosiak
South Chicago, IL

Bears need a new helmet logo

Nov. 17, 1987

Dear Doug,

I would like to see the Bears change the logo on their helmet and jacket from the "C" they have now to the "C" with the growling bear head. This logo is on many things already, so why not on the helmet and jacket?

When people think of the Bears they think of defense. That reputation has been tarnished in the last four games. I never thought as a Bear fan I would have to worry about the Bear defense. The last four games since the strike have made me feel very uneasy. This is my first year with the Bear Report.

Keep up the good work.

Tim Garasha
Conover, WI

Looking for 1987 team photo

Dear Doug,

Thanks for the information on the replacement team photo. When will the "official" team photo be available to the public who do not get a copy free with their Bear Report subscription? Will it also be available through the Bears' front office in Lake Forest?

If feels good to have Jim McMahon back. Where can one get his "I Shall Return" poster?

Keep up the good work!

Gary Petzel
Mercer, WI

Editor's note: The "official" team photo for subscribers who signed up under the free team photo offer should be available within a month. At that time the photo also will be available to other subscribers for \$2.00 through the Bear Report. You could also write to the Bears' Lake Forest office for a copy of the photo. The address is 250 N. Washington Rd., Lake Forest, IL, 60045. And Jim McMahon's new poster should be available in most larger sporting goods stores.

Bears should be shown old films

Dear Doug,

I've been a true Bear fan all my life. Born

in Michigan City, I felt as though we were part of Chicago. It's something for Bear fans that's born into them. To me, there is no other team.

I guess what I want to say is, what more can the fans do to really fire up the Bears to get them to another Super Bowl? Maybe "Iron Mike" should show some old films of the Bears when pride held the team together. To me, no one ever played the game with more pride, heart and intensity than Dick Butkus. We'd see him all full of mud and blood freezing and often in a lot of pain but always ready to go back in and play 110 percent. But not for money, but pride in his team, coach and himself. Why hasn't Dick ever taken a job with the Bears?

I also feel that No. 51 should be retired. Jim Morrissey is a good young player but will never be able to do what the original No. 51 did. Sorry, but to me he was the original one! I would also like to know if a book is available on the history of the Bears from day one to the present with all the team rosters, etc.

John Sass
Naples, FL

Editor's note: One book I know of on the Bears' history through 1984 is "Cooper Rolow's Bears Football Book" published by Jameson Books in Ottawa, Ill. I don't know if it's still in print, though. But a library might have a copy.

Ditka's complaints about officials justified

Dear Doug,

I am stationed in Germany and do not get to see many of the Bears games. Listening to them on the radio, the rare times they are aired, is frustrating. I've read in various magazines that Mike Ditka has been complaining about officiating, i.e., officials not calling holding against the opposing teams.

So far I've seen two Bear games this season — Monday night games tape delayed and shown here on Tuesday night. While watching the Bears play the Denver Broncos I realized that Mike is justified in his complaint. The officials only called one holding penalty against Denver's offensive line, and I saw at least eight others. Is there any way a protest can be filed?

On Denver's last touchdown play, I saw two holds — one on Al Harris and one on Rivera. Kevin Butler was slam dunked and no penalty was called on that. Where were the officials? Did they have snow in their eyes?

I thoroughly enjoy the Bear Report and if it weren't for that, I'd have no knowledge of how my team is doing.

Is it possible to get season tickets? What is the waiting list like? What is the cost? I'll be in Sweden in August to see the Bears play the Vikings.

Ssg. John M. O'Connor
Baumholder, Germany

Editor's note: The waiting list for season tickets is about 4,000 names long. The cost this year was \$170.

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1987 NFL SCHEDULE

Week 1

Sunday, Sept. 13

L.A. Raiders 20, Green Bay 0
Minnesota 34, Detroit 19
Kansas City 20, San Diego 13
New Orleans 28, Cleveland 21
N.Y. Jets 31, Buffalo 28
Houston 20, L.A. Rams 16
New England 28, Miami 21
Pittsburgh 30, San Francisco 17
Cincinnati 23, Indianapolis 21
St. Louis 24, Dallas 13
Tampa Bay 48, Atlanta 10
Washington 34, Philadelphia 24
Denver 40, Seattle 17

Monday, Sept. 14

Chicago 34, Giants 19

Week 2

Sunday, Sept. 20

Denver 17, Green Bay 17
Chicago 20, Tampa Bay 3
Minnesota 21, L.A. Rams 16
L.A. Raiders 27, Detroit 7
Philadelphia 27, New Orleans 17
Atlanta 21, Washington 20
Dallas 16, N.Y. Giants 14
Buffalo 34, Houston 30
Miami 23, Indianapolis 10
Cleveland 34, Pittsburgh 10
Seattle 43, Kansas City 14
San Francisco 27, Cincinnati 26
San Diego 28, St. Louis 24

Monday, Sept. 21

N.Y. Jets 44, New England 24

Week 3

Sunday, Sept. 27

Atlanta at New Orleans
Buffalo at Dallas
N.Y. Giants at Miami
Indianapolis at St. Louis
New England at Washington
Minnesota at Kansas City
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
Chicago at Detroit
L.A. Raiders at Houston
N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh
Seattle at San Diego
Cincinnati at L.A. Rams
Philadelphia at San Francisco
Monday, Sept. 28
Denver at Cleveland

Week 4

Sunday, Oct. 4

Green Bay 23, Minnesota 16
Pittsburgh 28, Atlanta 12
San Diego 10, Cincinnati 9
Cleveland 20, New England 10
Indianapolis 47, Buffalo 6
Tampa Bay 31, Detroit 27
Chicago 35, Philadelphia 3
Washington 28, St. Louis 21
New Orleans 37, L.A. Rams 10
Houston 40, Denver 10
L.A. Raiders 35, Kansas City 17
Dallas 38, N.Y. Jets 24
Seattle 24, Miami 20

Monday, Oct. 5

San Francisco 41, N.Y. Giants 21

Week 5

Sunday, Oct. 11

Detroit 19, Green Bay 16 (OT)
St. Louis 24, New Orleans 19
Dallas 41, Philadelphia 22
Chicago 27, Minnesota 7
San Diego 17, Tampa Bay 13
New England 14, Buffalo 7
Houston 15, Cleveland 10
Indianapolis 6, New York Jets 0
Miami 42, Kansas City 0
Washington 38, N.Y. Giants 12
Cincinnati 17, Seattle 10
San Francisco 25, Atlanta 17
L.A. Rams 31, Pittsburgh 21

Monday, Oct. 12

Denver 30, L.A. Raiders 14

Week 6

Sunday, Oct. 18

Pittsburgh 21, Indianapolis 7
Seattle 37, Detroit 14
New York Jets 37, Miami 31 (OT)
New England 21, Houston 7
Cleveland 34, Cincinnati 0
Green Bay 16, Philadelphia 10 (OT)
New Orleans 19, Chicago 17
Tampa Bay 20, Minnesota 10
Atlanta 24, Los Angeles Rams 20
Buffalo 6, New York Giants 3 (OT)
San Diego 23, Los Angeles Raiders 17
Denver 26, Kansas City 17
San Francisco 34, St. Louis 28

Monday, Oct. 19

Washington 13, Dallas 7

Week 7

Sunday, Oct. 25

Green Bay 34, Detroit 33
Houston 37, Atlanta 33
Buffalo 34, Miami 31 (OT)
Chicago 27, Tampa Bay 26
Pittsburgh 23, Cincinnati 20
Philadelphia 37, Dallas 20
Indianapolis 30, New England 16
Washington 17, New York Jets 16
San Francisco 24, New Orleans 22
New York Giants 30, St. Louis 7
Seattle 35, Los Angeles Raiders 13
San Diego 42, Kansas City 21

Monday, Oct. 26

Cleveland 30, L.A. Rams 17
Minnesota 34, Denver 27

Week 8

Sunday, Nov. 1

Houston 31, Cincinnati 29
Indianapolis 19, N.Y. Jets 14
Chicago 31, Kansas City 28
New England 26, L.A. Raiders 23
New Orleans 38, Atlanta 0
Philadelphia 28, St. Louis 23
Miami 35, Pittsburgh 24
Tampa Bay 23, Green Bay 17
Washington 27, Buffalo 7
San Diego 27, Cleveland 24 (OT)
Denver 34, Detroit 0
Seattle 28, Minnesota 17
San Francisco 31, L.A. Rams 10

Monday, Nov. 2

Dallas 33, N.Y. Giants 24

Week 9

Sunday, Nov. 8

Cleveland 38, Atlanta 3
Chicago 26, Green Bay 24
Buffalo 21, Denver 14
Minnesota 31, L.A. Raiders 20
Pittsburgh 17, Kansas City 16
San Diego 16, Indianapolis 13
St. Louis 31, Tampa Bay 28
Philadelphia 31, Washington 27
Detroit 27, Dallas 17
San Francisco 27, Houston 20
New Orleans 31, L.A. Rams 14
Miami 20, Cincinnati 14
N.Y. Giants 17, New England 10

Monday, Nov. 9

N.Y. Jets 30, Seattle 14

Week 10

Sunday, Nov. 15

Seattle 24, Green Bay 13
Cleveland 27, Buffalo 21
Dallas 23, New England 17 (OT)
Washington 20, Detroit 13
Houston 23, Pittsburgh 3
L.A. Rams 27, St. Louis 24
Indianapolis 40, Miami 21
Minnesota 23, Tampa Bay 17
N.Y. Jets 16, Kansas City 9
Cincinnati 16, Atlanta 10
New Orleans 26, San Francisco 24
N.Y. Giants 20, Philadelphia 17
San Diego 16, L.A. Raiders 14

Monday, Nov. 16

Denver 31, Chicago 29

Week 11

Sunday, Nov. 22

Green Bay 23, Kansas City 3
Minnesota 24, Atlanta 13
Buffalo 17, New York Jets 14
Cleveland 40, Houston 7
Chicago 30, Detroit 10
New England 24, Indianapolis 0
Pittsburgh 30, Cincinnati 16
St. Louis 31, Philadelphia 19
San Francisco 24, Tampa Bay 10
New Orleans 23, New York Giants 14
Seattle 34, San Diego 3
Denver 23, L.A. Raiders 17
Miami 20, Dallas 14
Monday, Nov. 23
L.A. Rams 30, Washington 26

Week 12

Thursday, Nov. 26

Kansas City 27, Detroit 20
Minnesota 44, Dallas 38 (OT)
Sunday, Nov. 29
Chicago 23, Green Bay 10
New York Jets 27, Cincinnati 20
Indianapolis 51, Houston 27
Buffalo 27, Miami 0
New Orleans 20, Pittsburgh 16
Philadelphia 34, New England 31 (OT)
St. Louis 34, Atlanta 21
L.A. Raiders 35, Tampa Bay 3
Washington 23, N.Y. Giants 19
Denver 31, San Diego 17
San Francisco 38, Cleveland 24
Monday, Nov. 30
L.A. Raiders 37, Seattle 14

Week 13

Sunday, Dec. 6

Atlanta 21, Dallas 10
Indianapolis 9, Cleveland 7
Cincinnati 30, Kansas City 27 (OT)
L.A. Rams 37, Detroit 16
N.Y. Giants 23, Philadelphia 20 (OT)
Houston 33, San Diego 18
San Francisco 23, Green Bay 12
Pittsburgh 13, Seattle 9
Washington 34, St. Louis 17
L.A. Raiders 34, Buffalo 21
Denver 31, New England 20
New Orleans 44, Tampa Bay 34
Chicago 30, Minnesota 24

Monday, Dec. 7

N.Y. Jets at Miami, 8 p.m.

Week 14

Sunday, Dec. 13

Buffalo at Indianapolis, noon
Cincinnati at Cleveland, noon
Dallas at Washington, noon
Houston at New Orleans, noon
Miami at Philadelphia, noon
Minnesota vs. Green Bay at Milw., noon
N.Y. Jets at New England, noon
L.A. Raiders at Kansas City, 3 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at St. Louis, 3 p.m.
Pittsburgh at San Diego, 3 p.m.
Detroit at Tampa Bay, 3 p.m.
Atlanta at L.A. Rams, 3 p.m.
Denver at Seattle, 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 14

Chicago at San Francisco, 8 p.m.

Week 15

Saturday, Dec. 19

Green Bay at N.Y. Giants, 11:30 a.m.
Kansas City at Denver, 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 20

Minnesota at Detroit, noon
New England at Buffalo, noon
New Orleans at Cincinnati, noon
Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets, noon
Pittsburgh at Houston, noon
San Francisco at Atlanta, noon
Seattle at Chicago, noon
St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 3 p.m.
Indianapolis at San Diego, 3 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Raiders, 3 p.m.
Washington at Miami, 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 21

Dallas at L.A. Rams, 8 p.m.

Week 16

Saturday, Dec. 26

Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 11:30 a.m.
Washington at Minnesota, 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 27

Buffalo at Philadelphia, noon
Cincinnati at Houston, noon
Detroit at Atlanta, noon
Green Bay at New Orleans, noon
N.Y. Jets at N.Y. Giants, noon
St. Louis at Dallas, noon
Seattle at Kansas City, noon
Tampa Bay at Indianapolis, noon
San Diego at Denver, 3 p.m.
Chicago at L.A. Raiders, 3 p.m.
L.A. Rams at San Francisco, 7 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 28
New England at Miami, 8 p.m.

NFL Standings

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-Chicago	10	2	0	.833	329	204
Minnesota	7	5	0	.583	285	278
Green Bay	4	7	1	.375	205	237
Tampa Bay	4	8	0	.333	256	285
Detroit	2	10	0	.167	205	344

East Division

x-Washington	9	3	0	.750	307	218
Dallas	5	7	0	.417	270	287
Philadelphia	5	7	0	.417	272	318
St. Louis	5	7	0	.417	288	309
N.Y. Giants	4	8	0	.333	216	268

West Division

y-San Francisco	10	2	0	.833	335	246
y-New Orleans	9	3	0	.750	324	225
L.A. Rams	5	7	0	.417	263	284
Atlanta	3	9	0	.250	185	338

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Indianapolis	7	5	0	.583	253	198
N.Y. Jets	6	5	0	.545	252	223
Buffalo	6	6	0	.500	229	272
Miami	5	6	0	.455	264	252
New England	5	7	0	.417	241	256

Central Division

Cleveland	7	5	0	.583	309	185
Houston	7	5	0	.583	290	292
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	236	240
Cincinnati	4	8	0	.333	229	270

West Division

Denver	8	3	1	.708	314	243
San Diego	8	4	0	.667	230	253
Seattle	7	5	0	.583	289	231
L.A. Raiders	5	7	0	.417	271	243
Kansas City	2	10	0	.167	199	338

x — clinched division title
y — clinched playoff berth



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